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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Warns Against Increasing Libya Sanctions

LD1910170993 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] London, al-Timur [October] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Adnan Umran, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has confirmed that the strengthening of sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah shall endanger Arab-American relations and will undermine American interests in the area.

In a statement made to AL-'ARAB newspaper published in London, 'Adnan Umran praised the stances of the Great Jamahiriyah in handling its crisis with the Western states.

Sudanese Official Meets With Arab League Chief

NC1910165593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, secretary general of Sudan's International Peoples Friendship Council, today. [passage omitted]

Asked about moves to restore Sudan's relations with the Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, the Sudanese official said that these attempts are continuing and that his country is intent on supporting these efforts and clearing the atmosphere with the Arab countries, the Gulf states in particular.

He said Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih will visit Oman at the end of this month and will later visit a number of other Gulf states.

Asked about the recent developments in Sudan, especially the dissolution of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, the Sudanese official said this development is part of the political changes in the country and will result in general elections, the election of parliament and the president, and a complete transfer of authority to the masses.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Head Denounces 'Arafat; Says Accord 'Sellout'

BR1910133893 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 17 Oct 93 pp 99-100

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by Alan George in Damascus; date not given—first paragraph is PANORAMA introduction]

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, 56, is leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), which broke away from George Habash's PFLP in 1968. Jibril is considered by Israel and the West as one of the most fearsome international terrorists. PANORAMA interviewed him in his office in a gray villa in the Mizra'a quarter of northern Damascus.

[George] How do you view the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO?

[Jibril] Yitzhaq Rabin's dream of normalizing relations with greater Syria (Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon) is impossible. The people of greater Syria will never allow an Israeli to walk their streets. Arab and Islamic radicals will not hesitate to use violence to block any peace agreement in the Middle East that does not take account of all the rights of the Palestinians.

[George] What about Yasir 'Arafat?

[Jibril] 'Arafat is a traitor, and he will come to the same end as former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat. The agreement between the PLO and Israel for limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho is nothing more than a sellout. 'Arafat will be punished because be failed to obtain any guarantee for the Palestinians: He did not achieve self-determination, nor the right for Palestinian refugees to return, nor even a declaration by Israel promising to move the settlers who have settled in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since 1967. He also failed to settle the matter of Jerusalem's fate.

[George] What do you think Rabin's strategy is?

[Jibril] Rabin signed the agreement with 'Arafat because he knew that the occupation of Gaza was becoming too heavy a burden for Israel. He simply wanted to restore a bit of calm to the territories by using 'Arafat as a policeman. As the Arab proverb goes: "He who has a cook does not need to get his hands dirty." With the accord between Israel and the PLO, 'Arafat will be the one doing the cooking, while Rabin stands by to watch and maybe even to eat.

[George] Why do you not just admit that, this time, a step has actually been taken toward peace?

[Jibril] Because Israel has made no concessions. It has only made vague promises. Rabin says: "After a few years we will open negotiations directly with you Palestinians, and then we will see what we can do once the intifadah and armed resistance in southern Lebanon are over and economic cooperation has been developed with all the Arab countries." What can 'Arafat do except yield to Israeli demands? We are committed to the liberation of the whole of occupied Palestine and to the return of all Palestinian refugees exiled when the State of Israel was set up in 1948. Unless these two conditions are met, there will never be peace in this region. The situation might calm down for a few months or even a few years, but peace is something else. The only possible strategy for the Palestinians is to continue the armed struggle and the intifadah.

[George] If Syria or Lebanon sign the peace agreement with Israel, however, they will immediately seek to eliminate the extremists.

[Jibril] We are a mass people's movement, and we work with the people. It is true that, over a period of time, we have built up a network of offices, radio stations, and military training camps, but these bases are not essential for our activities. If we lose them, we will go back to living in Palestinian camps among the Arab people and continue to prepare them for danger.

[George] What objectives do you wish to strike?

[Jibril] We have only ever attacked military objectives. We have moral values that prevent us from attacking innocent civilians. If only the Americans had just a fraction of our moral values.

[George] So what about the bombs fitted with barometric detonators found in the possession of PFLP-GC militants arrested in Germany in 1988? They are the same bombs that killed 47 people on a Swissair airliner en route from Zurich to Tel Aviv in February 1970.

[Jibril] Those bombs were intended for use on Israeli strategic military objectives on the ground. However, following the U.S. attack on Libya in 1986, Hafiz Kassim Halkamouni [name as published], the leader of our Tripoli cell, made an independent decision to kill U.S. soldiers. The objectives were the special military convoys moving between U.S. bases in Germany. You have to understand human emotions. We cannot expect the commanders of our units to always operate like electronic robots. We are not, however, responsible for the Lockerbie attack. We consider such operations morally repugnant.

[George] Yet you will not renounce terrorism?

[Jibril] I just want an accord that will let me return to my village. For merely expressing this desire, I am considered an extremist and a terrorist who is a threat to international peace.

Hamas Spokesman Discusses Views of Opposition

JN1910185693 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 18-19 Oct p 19

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by correspondent Bassam Baddarin in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Baddarin] Would you explain the truth about the meetings of the Palestinian opposition taking place in Damascus?

[Ghawshah] Three meetings have thus far been held in Damascus. They were held on 1 September, 16 September, and 7 October under the slogan of the General National Congress. In the 7 October meeting, three viewpoints were raised. They were:

First, Hamas was of the view that a provisional leadership for the Palestinian people should be established, which would be announced through the Congress, provided that there should be an opportunity to rejoin the PLO, depending on the PLO's actual situation on the ground.

Second, establishing a wide national and Islamic front, opposed to the Tunis [PLO] leadership. This was proposed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Third, announcing a legitimate PLO leadership after stripping the Tunis leadership, represented by 'Arafat and his group, of its legitimacy.

At the conclusion of debate, no specific mechanism was reached, and it was agreed to extend the meeting for the following week.

[Baddarin] Why do you support a provisional leadership?

[Ghawshah] Hamas believes that a permanent leadership is one elected by the people. But in this phase there is no leadership after the signing [of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement], and after the PLO ceased to exist and turned into a political party as if there are no territories to liberate.

There are individual interpretations on the PLO's fate in the coming years. Some people believe the PLO will continue to exist for the next five years; others believe that the PLO's fragmentation began early because the agreement means that there is no need for any PLO political representation abroad.

We in Hamas do not want to precipitate matters. We believe that a provisional leadership would resolve the current confusion until the PLO's fate becomes clear. In principle, we support the PLO's reconstruction. However, if the PLO's role ends completely and if it becomes a rubble, we would deem it unjustified to revive it, especially since we are noting the start of a new phase for the Palestine question. This phase has Arab and Islamic features after the end of both the 1968-1993 resistance phase, and the 1963-1968 regimes phase [phase in which the Arab regimes used to control the PLO].

[Baddarin] Are you planning to assume the responsibilities of this provisional leadership?

[Ghawshah] Yes, through democratic change and not through hegemony and self-imposition. We believe the time is ripe for projecting that leadership. The self-rule is weak and covers only the inhabitants, and there is no hope for establishing a state. Mahmud 'Abbas himself explained that when he warned against excessive optimism about that agreement.

[Baddarin] Are you qualified to play that role?

[Ghawshah] We want to take part in this leadership along with the other forces on a percentage, democratic basis. We will not act like 'Arafat, who sought the hegemony and dictatorship that have led to this result.

[Baddarin] Are you going to establish that leadership before or after aborting the agreement?

[Ghawshah] We will establish it basically to continue the national Islamic program for the people—a program which is represented by jihad, the armed struggle, the intifadah, and national unity. The leadership will wipe out this agreement from the history of the Palestinian people as a black spot. To achieve that goal, we may wage a lengthy battle.

[Baddarin] Does this mean two leaderships for the people at one time?

[Ghawshah] The first leadership was imposed, is undemocratic, and was unelected, and after the signing, it no longer exists.

[Baddarin] At a news conference a month ago, you said that a national conference would be held. Why was not it held?

[Ghawshah] We hope we will hold it, but regrettably, the opposition movement was not swift and effective enough to confront the conspiracy. We said: If wrong moves that quickly, what could right do moving so slowly?

[Baddarin] Why did that happen?

[Ghawshah] There are objective and subjective factors. We do not belittle the international support the agreement enjoys. The movements of the opposition are not dynamic but static, compared to the Tunis leadership. The reason is that some forces exist in the inside rather than in the outside, and the reverse is also true. [sentence as published]

[Baddarin] If Syria signs a similar agreement, as expected, what sort of position will the Damascus-based opposition forces take?

[Ghawshah] Undoubtedly this will weaken some Damascus-based forces. However, many main factions maintain their bases inside [occupied territories] and make their decisions there. There are four main factions, whose decision will not be affected by that of the Arab regimes. They are: Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

[Baddarin] Why did you stop your talks with Fatah?

[Ghawshah] They stopped on 4 January 1993, when 'Arafat refused to activate the committees approved at the Khartoum meeting. Since then, there has been no official meeting. Only one meeting was held in early July with 'Abbas Zaki, and orders were issued to him to stop that meeting immediately. On 11 September 1993, a Hamas delegation met with the Yemeni leadership, which offered to hold a dialogue with 'Arafat. We rejected it and then agreed to hold the dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee excluding 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas. 'Arafat opposed it, although he received a letter from the Yemeni leadership to that effect.

[Baddarin] What have you sought to achieve through your dialogue with Fatah?

[Ghawshah] We are attempting to involve Fatah opposition figures, such as Hani al-Hasan, Muhammad Jihad, and 'Abbas Zaki in either the national congress, or the provisional leadership.

We asked them to join our ranks at this historic juncture. Factionalism should not be allowed to outweigh the national interest. Likewise, selfish interests should not be promoted at the expense of principles.

[Baddarin] But, have the Fatah opposition figures responded favorably to your calls?

[Ghawshah] We told them that they must abandon the framework 'Arafat is using to enslave them. We informed them that they must abandon the faction, which has become "'a legend'" manipulated by one man [Fatah]. However, they believe that there are organizational obstacles that prevent them from joining us.

[Baddarin] Is it true that you are holding secret talks with Fatah?

[Ghawshah] Yes, we do hold some secret meetings with some leading Fatah opposition figures. However, these meetings are individual rather than factional meetings.

[Baddarin] Is it true that you have reached an agreement with Fatah inside the occupied territories?

[Ghawshah] We have challenged Fatah to prove the existence of an agreement between us. As a matter of fact, what happened is that some prisoners belonging to both factions in a Gaza jail held a dialogue among themselves and agreed that there should be no conflict or fighting between the two sides.

[Baddarin] Israeli newspapers have quoted Shaykh Ahmad Yasin as saying that he agrees to take part in autonomy elections.

[Ghawshah] Statements to this effect have never been made by the founder shaykh. They were made on his behalf by Israeli Knesset member Talab al-Sani', who attended the recent PLO Central Council session in Tunis. Shaykh Yasin is well aware that the agreement concerns limited autonomy for the population, and that elections are only a mechanism to achieve this end. How, then, can the Hamas Movement oppose the principle, and, at the same time, endorse the mechanism meant to be used to uphold this principle?

[Baddarin] Where are your decisions made? What are the sources of your finances?

[Ghawshah] 'Arafat has attempted to learn where the movement's decisions are made, but to no avail. In the course of this endeavor, he mentioned Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Iran as possible venues of the movement's decisionmaking. At present, the movement's organizational decisions are made in the occupied territories. However, the movement has leaders outside the occupied territories to promote the efforts of the movement's mujahidin.

With regard to financial support, it comes from the Muslim and Arab peoples. Nobody can mortgage the movement's decisions. For, it is capable of living on "subsistence". For example, the movement does not have a bureaucracy, big expenditure, and big offices that need big spending. We manage, using minimum funds. [interview ends]

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas in Jordan, deems himself a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. When asked about his presence in the offices of the Muslim Brotherhood, he said: I am not a newcomer on the Jordanian scene, nor am I a guest of the Brotherhood here. I am part of the Brotherhood. I have worked with the Brotherhood since the sixties.

Ghawshah added: I am an expert in building dams. I worked as director of the King Talal Dam Project for eight years. This continued until I became a spokesman for the Hamas Movement.

We asked him who decided this. He said that the decision in this regard was made in coordination with Islamic leaders here and inside the occupied territories, after he had taken part in the Islamic reconciliation mission tasked with finding a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Ghawshah added: I only address issues pertaining to Hamas. We have met with high-ranking Jordanian officials, informed them about our program, and requested that we be allowed to work in Jordan. In return, we promised not to interfere in Jordan's domestic affairs.

Speaker al-Sa'ih To Resign at PNC Session

JN1910173693 Amman AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Oct 93 p 4

[Text] His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has denied a report by the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB that Yasir 'Arafat has brought Shaykh al-Sa'ih's son, Bassam, from occupied Jerusalem to monitor him and prevent people from contacting him.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih, who rejected the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, said his son, Bassam, has come to Jordan at his request to help him and reassure himself about the health of his father, who is over 85 years of age.

Responding to the paper, al-Sa'ih said: I am not among those who can be placed under surveillance, and I will not allow anyone to censor my statements or prevent people from contacting me, regardless of their statuses and their ties with me. I decide the nature of these contacts, whether direct or indirect. Some news agencies contacted me, and I made some statements to the press, which, I believe, are in harmony with the national interests and the people's unity and cohesion.

In this regard, he said, I would like to assert that I will tender my resignation to the upcoming PNC session, and I am determined to explain the details of my position before the PNC members.

PNC's Qub'ah, Oppositionists on PLO, New Front

JN1910172493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 23

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Taysir Qub'ah, second deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that he will keep his position despite his boycott of the PLO Central Council's session which was concluded in Tunis last week. He added: The PNC is the only institution authorized to accept my resignation, which I will not tender.

Responding to a question by AL-DUSTUR, he said I will continue to adhere to my stand which opposes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement within the framework of the PLO. I call on all forces, figures, and PNC members at this critical time to become more involved in the ranks of the PLO and rally around it, protect it, and maintain it.

He added: I support any new formation within the framework of the PLO, especially if it adheres to the PLO National Charter and national program. He denied any links with an alternative organization or leadership to the PLO. He said: The organizations that are being formed outside the framework of the PLO, in fact, fragment the Palestinian people instead of maintaining their unity at this difficult stage.

It is noteworthy that Qub'ah is a member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and that the PFLP nominated him as a PNC second deputy speaker and that he won this position.

Responding to a question, Qub'ah said: I do not think that our brothers who formed the Islamic national front in Damascus want their front to be outside the framework of the PLO. He reiterated that divisions in the Palestinian ranks create more difficulties for the Palestinian people. He said that the PFLP has not asked him to resign from his position as PNC deputy speaker and that the PFLP is still keeping its representatives at the PNC and did not withdraw from it.

The PFLP withdrew from the PLO Executive Committee and boycotted the recent PLO Central Council meeting in protest of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He added: The PLO Central Council's ratification of the agreement is unconstitutional and only the PNC is authorized to adopt or reject the agreement.

Concluding his statement, Qub'ah said that normalization is a dangerous issue. He opposed any form of Palestinian or Arab normalization with Israel before establishing an independent Palestinian state and achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said: The Europeans voted in favor of the Maastricht treaty. Why don't we present the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to the Palestinian people in a public referendum that is organized for this purpose.

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki [Palestinian opposition figure in the occupied territory] defended the formation of an Islamic national front, saying that its formation came as a result of the political vacuum created by the signing of the 13 September agreement and popular pressure on the 10 factions. In a report to the al-Zaytunah Culture and Information Center in Jerusalem—a copy of which was obtained by AL-DUSTUR—al-Maliki said that the objective is to foil the agreement and to help the Palestinian people bypass the dangers of the agreement. He also stressed the need for all parties to consider internecine Palestinian fighting a red line. He also affirmed the position of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who do not consider the new front an alternative to the PLO and who are still working under the umbrella of the PLO. He said that the objective is to safeguard and reorganize the PLO.

Al-Maliki said: The presence of non-PLO organizations within the new front is a continuation of old attempts to associate them with the PLO. We all recall Fatah's attempts to incorporate Hamas for example, he said.

Sami al-Kilani, member of the Palestinian delegation, said that the opposition to the agreement is not a sufficient reason to form such a front. He added: It seems that the purpose of forming this front is to create an alternative to the PLO. What strengthens this opinion, he said is the presence of fronts which do not recognize the PLO.

Al-Kilani expected the failure of the new front, recalling similar formations such as the rejectionist front of the capitulatory solutions and the Salvation Front. He said: The disharmony among the factions of the front, the stand of each front toward the PLO, and their various motives of opposition do not constitute a basis for its continuation.

Al-Kilani reiterated the right of all forces and individuals to freely express their opinions, adding that he prefers the opposition to take place within PLO frameworks.

10 Factions Seeking 'National Conference' Members

JN1910164793 Amman AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Palestinian forces opposing the Gaza-Jericho agreement have begun contacts with Palestinian nationalist figures and prominent personalities in Palestinian camps and communities in Jordan to register their names as members of the Palestinian national conference, which the 10 factions [opposing the peace process] have decided to convene following their meeting in Damascus last week.

AL-DIYAR has learned that these contacts focus mainly on the independent personalities and with figures who were considered supporters of 'Arafat in the past, as well as the nationalist figures that played a prominent role in the Palestinian struggle and opposed the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli contacts.

Hani al-Hasan Attends Executive Committee Meeting

JN1910201393 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 18-19 Oct p 23

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Excerpts] Tunis—The PLO Executive Committee yesterday held two meetings to discuss a number of topics related to the forthcoming phase, particularly national authority over Palestinian territory.

Following the morning session, which was chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and attended by representatives of some PLO factions, Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab told AKHIR KHABAR that during the meeting, they discussed the formation of the national authority. He said there is a strong tendency to determine the mission, powers, nature, and program of such an authority.

Al-Najjab added that the qualities of individuals who will participate in this authority was also discussed. He said the body will represent the Palestinian people's social forces and not the factions working under or outside the PLO's umbrella. These individuals, he said, will include Muslim and Christian clergymen, public figures representing all parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and credible individuals with political and professional qualities. [passage omitted]

In an interesting development, responsible Palestinian sources have revealed that Fatah Central Committee Members Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki attended the meeting. They are both critical of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The two meetings were also attended by a representative of the Arab Liberation Front, whose representative on the PLO Executive Committee Mahmud Isma'il withdrew from the Committee.

AKHIR KHABAR also learned that a decision was made to include new names to the Gaza-Jericho committee. They include Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, former PLO Executive Committee member. Legal adviser Muhammad Darwish al-Wahidi will also be replaced by either Raja Shihadah or 'Ali al-Safarini because he does not speak English.

Russian Envoy Delivers Ministry Message to 'Arafat

LD1910181893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] This morning, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received His Excellency Boris Shchibolin, Russian ambassador to Tunisia. His excellency the ambassador conveyed to brother President Abu-'Ammar a message from the Russian Foreign Ministry relating to the latest developments in the peace process, especially following the signature of the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel. The message also concerned the continuing efforts to support a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

'Arafat on Setting Up Radio, TV Stations in Ramallah

NC1710150093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 17 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that Gaza and Jericho will constitute a prelude to the establishment of the Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, where political pluralism and religious and ideological movement will prevail and where the sons of the three religions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—will be treated equally. Human rights will be applied and the right of citizens to education, health care, culture, and social prosperity will also prevail, 'Arafat added.

In remarks during a meeting with a number of Fatah cadres from the occupied territories, president 'Arafat said that the Palestinian state will enjoy broad relations with the Arab countries and their people, who always sided with and supported the Palestinian people, particularly Jordan. He noted that wide-ranging contacts will be held with Jordan over the next few days preparatory to forming committees and elevating the level of coordination with King Husayn and Jordanian officials.

During his meeting, which was reported on by Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH today, President 'Arafat said that practical steps have been made to prepare for the construction of two radio and television stations in Ramallah. He said that four agreements have been signed for the purchase of the necessary equipment. President 'Arafat added that a project will also be signed to supply Gaza and Jericho and later the rest of the West Bank areas with communications network and a telephone exchange.

'Abbas Views Elections, Jerusalem, Intifadah

AU1910151493 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 Oct 93 p 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Council member Mahmud 'Abbas alias Abu Mazin by Said Dudin in Tunis; date not given: "The Middle East Requires New Openness"]

[Text] [Dudin] On behalf of the PLO, you have signed the first official agreement with the Israeli government. How will things continue now?

['Abbas] What we have signed is a statement on the bases of relations that requires the implementation of further accords. This will have to be done by a number of working committees. In the final analysis, the agreement is oriented at the existence of a Palestinian state side by side with an Israeli state. But the most important tasks that we now have to deal with as soon as possible are the following: regulating the conditions for people to move to Gaza; creating security in Gaza and Jericho, which requires the setting up of Palestinian police units; taking over the administration in Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank, and creating Palestinian health, educational, environmental, and other facilities; reaching agreement on elections and the corridors that are to connect the West Bank and Gaza. However, this will not be possible without international aid, in particular, comprehensive economic assistance. By the way, contrary to what the opponents of the agreement claim, there are no secret files, all accords have been made public.

[Dudin] Is the Palestinian side at all in a position to cope with the heritage of the Israeli occupation?

['Abbas] Undoubtedly, the Palestinian problem is complicated and can only be solved step by step. When the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is ended, we will also have to solve the difficult problem of the Palestinian refugees. The PLO feels, of course, responsible for them, but is not in a position in the present circumstances to carry out the interests of the approximately 5 million people. In our statement on the bases of relations, we have expressly pointed out the implementation of UN Resolution 242, according to which there must be a just solution to the refugee problem. UN Resolution 194 deals with compensation for those who do not want to return to their home country. We have said that we will discuss a fair solution for the refugees in about two years, and we will then place both UN resolutions on the agenda of the negotiations. Until then, assistance for the refugees in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq remains an international task.

[Dudin] How about human rights in a Palestinian state?

['Abbas] We see human rights just as any other civilized nation sees them. This means that every individual has the right of freedom of opinion, cultural freedom, religious freedom, as anchored in the UN Charter. In our declaration of independence of 1988, we called for pluralism; so the political spectrum should not be confined to a single ideology, a single culture, a single political orientation.

[Dudin] In what way will the planned elections take place?

['Abbas] They will not take place in the presence of the Israeli Army. According to the agreement, on the eve of the elections, its troops will withdraw from all densely populated areas, and they will be replaced by Palestinian police. In addition, this will take place under international supervision; this still has to be agreed upon. The election procedure—ranging from constituencies to election campaigning—will be agreed upon by relevant committees, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will, of course, be fully included.

[Dudin] How is the Jerusalem issue to be settled in a final agreement?

['Abbas] Jerusalem is not just a holy city of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Jerusalem also embodies the civilization of the Palestinian people, their history, and is an inseparable integral part of the occupied Palestinian soil. It is a difficult issue. That is why we have decided to deal with it in the last stage of the negotiations. What is clear is this: UN Resolution 242 bans the occupation of foreign territories by force. Jerusalem was occupied by force. The security guarantees that the United States gave in connection with the invitation to the Madrid conference include the statement that the annexation of Jerusalem is definitely rejected. Both bases of the negotiations emphasize the Arab character of occupied Jerusalem. Of course, the city will remain open for all believers.

[Dudin] It is obvious that there is massive criticism within and outside the PLO about the course embarked upon.

['Abbas] Undoubtedly, there is a Palestinian opposition, just as there is an Israeli opposition, which rejects the agreement. I consider it unlikely, however, that there could ever be some sort of coordination between the two. Yet we cannot rule out actions—including violent actions—against the spirit of the agreement.

[Dudin] The PLO Executive Committee has called upon all Palestinian forces to hold a serious democratic dialogue.

['Abbas] There was already opposition at the beginning of the Palestinian revolution when the mufti concept and the rejectionist party confronted each other; there was opposition when the PLO was created or the PLO leadership was taken over by the Al-Fatah movement. Such opposition is normal. But now we urgently need a national dialogue, in a democratic framework, without any violent tendency.

[Dudin] What will become of Intifadah?

['Abbas] Intifadah was born in the struggle against occupation. It is a legitimate right of every people to defend itself against occupation by any form of resistance. Once the occupation is ended, Intifadah will primarily deal with setting up scientific, cultural, and other institutions, and all sections of the population will be involved in this work.

[Dudin] When will the PLO institutions resume work in Gaza and Jericho?

['Abbas] I think in about seven months, because the ratification of the agreement will take one month, the forming of the commissions for its implementation, two months, and the Israeli withdrawal, four months.

[Dudin] But these practical steps require an atmosphere that is conducive to peace.

['Abbas] This is exactly what we told Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington. His government, too, must take confidence-building measures. They include the release of prisoners, the return of the deported Palestinians, the lifting of sanctions against Jerusalem, and other activities that make it clear to the Palestinian and Israeli citizens that a new phase has begun, a phase of coexistence, a phase of mutual understanding.

[Dudin] The agreement is also disputed in Arab states.

['Abbas] The Arab states have always considered the Palestinian issue their own problem, and everyone felt responsible for us—and they concluded from this fact that the Palestinian people were not entitled to decide on their own. However, since every Arab state claimed responsibility, in the final analysis, every state dodged responsibility. Finally, we took our fate in our own hands and have proved to our Arab brothers and the world that we are able to decide on it ourselves. This does not mean that we do not need to be supported any more. We continue to need such support. But we do not want tutelage. The realism that has marked the PLO's policy has also influenced the thinking process in many Arab states.

[Dudin] There are still many open problems for the Middle East—be it Arab-Israeli issues such as Golan, the consequences of the Gulf war, the boycott against the Iraqi people. How does the PLO intend to broaden its course of dialogue in the interests of the strengthening of peace in the whole region?

['Abbas] We want an Arab dialogue, so that what happened during the Gulf crisis is not repeated, and inter-Arab relations are shaped on the bases of openness, sincerity, and cooperation. A number of Arab states have made efforts in this direction and have called for opening a new chapter in their relations. I may mention the travels of King Hassan II of Morocco, those of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, the head of state of the United Arab Emirates, or the talks with the secretary general of the Arab League. Here, some prospects for a new opening in the Middle

East have manifested themselves. The same must also apply to the suffering Iraqi people. We now need a comprehensive Arab reconciliation process.

'Abbas, UAE President Discuss Israeli-PLO Accord

LD1910195593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, held a meeting with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], yesterday. He informed him about the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena in the aftermath of the signature of the peace agreement in Washington, in addition to developments relatimg to the Palestinian cause. During the audience, Shaykh Zayid stressed his full support for the agreement and expressed his hope that it will represent a firm step on the right path to achieve the goals that the Arabs and Palestinians aspire to.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Central Council Meeting

TA1910195693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 8

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Da'ud Kuttab, in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Kuttab] Some questions were raised about your voting in the Central Council. What was the reason for your abstention on the declaration of principles and your vote in favor of establishing a national authority? What is the reason for the disparity in the voting?

[Qaddumi] As far as the voting is concerned, one had to be consistent with the leadership's decision by agreeing on the declaration of principles. I had opposed this declaration in the discussions held among the leadership, that is in the Fatah Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee. Therefore, I had to abstain from voting in compatibility with my opposing position. By so doing I was neither opposing the leadership's decision nor contradicting myself. As for the national authority, since the dust has settled and we have only one option, one should act accordingly. I said from the beginning that I will fight against all the shortcomings in this declaration. Undoubtedly, establishing a national authority is a necessary thing. In 1974, we approved the establishment of a national authority on every inch of land that is liberated or from which the enemy withdraws. This is compatible with the Palestine National Council's resolution. I adhere to what the people's representatives decide. My opposition still stands, but I agreed with the leadership's decision in order to avoid contradiction with it. This is constructive opposition.

[Kuttab] There is another opposition that has withdrawn and did not participate in the Central Council's meetings. What do you think about this?

[Qaddumi] I wish the brothers who are opposed had attended the Central Council's meetings to debate and state their views clearly and candidly, because opposition is a healthy phenomenon. We greatly appreciate the opposition's viewpoint even if we disagree with them or with some of their statements. We must preserve the PLO, because this is a strategic matter. We must not fail in this. The PLO must continue to operate, because it is the organization that plans the interests of our people inside and outside. At any rate, we had decided earlier to continue the dialogue with our brothers in the other organizations. They are our partners. They are part of the Palestinian people. They contributed to launching this revolution and participated in a hard and long struggle. Therefore, we respect them and appreciate their viewpoint even though we disagree with them.

[Kuttab] What stage has the dialogue with the opposition, whether within or outside the PLO, reached?

[Qaddumi] At present the situation is tense. We believe that after a while an opportunity will arise to launch a lengthy dialogue with our brothers in the opposition to establish a national front from among opponents and supporters. At the same time each of us will continue working in his field within the PLO's framework. Even though the efforts that we exerted in the past did not succeed, undoubtedly they paved the way for a comprehensive dialogue.

[Kuttab] Recently you visited Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. What were the aims and results of that visit?

[Qaddumi] I went on an official assignment from the leadership. I did not go as an opponent. I went to Iraq after the agreement was signed. I briefed them about all the developments since the U.S. papers were presented, about how the Israeli proposal was made to us, and about the specific improvements made in it before it was initialed. I told the Iraqis: I am not asking you to adopt a position now. Our brothers in Iraq have their own viewpoint. The entire aim of my visit was to keep the Arab Liberation Front's representative in the PLO and the Executive Committee, because this preserves the PLO which protects the interests of Palestinians. I did not request a meeting with President Saddam.

[Kuttab] What are the priorities for Palestinian action on which one must focus now after the ratification of the declaration of principles?

[Qaddumi] The success of Palestinian action requires Palestinian unanimity or semi-unanimity. It also requires Arab reconciliation. This is one of the tasks that we must undertake as soon as possible. Any progress on the other Arab tracks serves the peace process. The Palestinian track differs from the other tracks. It has to pass through an interim stage until we reach the same stage as the Arab brothers. This is the stage of negotiations on a full withdrawal and the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement with the Arabs. This is what we have agreed on with the Arabs. Progress on the Palestinian track must be made one way or another. In addition, we have to give the masses freedom to create new realities on the ground. Let the masses understand this statement in any way they deem fit. I do not wish to decide for them. All the forces of our people who have left should be returned to the occupied territories. We should protect and build our popular institutions in the occupied territories.

Moreover, another one of our priorities is to enhance coordination and joint action with our brothers in Jordan, maintain Arab coordination, and cleanse it of defects.

We are facing a new challenge. We must resist all the negative points in the declaration of principles. I will raise the issue of the refugees from now. It is more important than money, and we must not give it up. We should consolidate our demands in accordance with international legitimacy with regard to the removal of settlements and the issue of Jerusalem.

All these issues have been raised in general, but negotiations over them will take place after two years. World public opinion must be aroused so that it will become interested in these issues. As far as the refugee issue is concerned, Israel should acknowledge the right of return. I believe that the peace process will move more smoothly if there is an Israeli decision on the right of return. We will launch a large-scale international campaign so that the refugees' rights are acknowledged through bilateral relations in the bilateral or multilateral talks.

Another priority is constructing houses for our people inside our occupied territories and attaching utmost importance to our presence in Jerusalem.

[Kuttab] You agreed on the formation of a national authority. There are fears inside the occupied territories about the process of the transfer of authority and the possibility of differences between the inside and outside. There are also demands to merge the institutions from inside and outside. How do you envision the national authority?

[Qaddumi] The national authority is the local government. Its task will be within the framework of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In my view, the central government is the Executive Committee and the PLO, but in time the inside and outside should be integrated. We have to consider this matter very calmly and carefully so that the popular institutions that will be established will be totally linked from the outset with the main centers. This will take place after certain measures are implemented on the ground, namely, following withdrawal and elections. No one should imagine that we are avoiding elections. We must establish the national authority to prepare for elections.

[Kuttab] Do you support elections on a local, national, or personal level, preparing lists from outside, or choosing candidates from the field?

[Qaddumi] I favor free elections under international supervision. We prefer the United Nations to be the supervisor. We will discuss this issue with our brothers in the resistance factions, because this matter concerns all of us. We will implement whatever is agreed on by us. [passage omitted]

Chief Negotiator Sha'th Discusses Taba Talks

PM1910085793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 93 p6

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian chief delegate to the Taba negotiations with Israel, by Ruba al-Husari in Taba; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Husari] The question of the Palestinian detainees and their release is hotly debated by the Palestinian people. There was some disagreement about it during the second day's meetings in Taba. What Palestinian view did you submit?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian view is that all these detainees should be released immediately. The peace process should be coupled with the release of all the detainees. In other words, there should be amnesty for all. Naturally, we do realize that there should be negotiations on this matter. The Israelis are not distant from this idea, but they talk about release in stages. That is why we in the Liaison Committee agreed in Cairo to immediately form a committee to discuss the detainees with a view to releasing them one batch after another until they are all released as soon as possible. We have agreed on the composition of that committee here in Taba. The disagreement was about whether the task should be undertaken by the Security Committee or by another special committee. We agreed that it should be a subcommittee attached to the Security Committee to deal exclusively with the issue of the detainees, the prisoners, the wanted, and the deportees.

[Al-Husari] When do you expect the release of detainees to begin, or at least the first batch of them?

[Sha'th] I do not wish to speak of expectations which might be difficult to meet; let me just say: as soon as possible.

[Al-Husari] This is a fundamental issue that is important to Palestinian public opinion and is important to you for maintaining the agreement momentum. Have you requested the immediate release of some of them?

[Sha'th] The committee will meet. No decision has been reached yet, but my feeling is that the Israeli side well understands the need for quick decisions for the start of the release of detainees.

[Al-Husari] On the second day (yesterday) you also discussed the question of the agenda for the Gaza-Jericho Committee's negotiations. Were there any complications causing delay in reaching quick agreement on that matter?

[Sha'th] I remember that the Washington negotiations agenda took two years to prepare, and we did not reach agreement on it there. So if discussion of the matter has taken two hours here, we are not far [as published]. The work of what we have called "the agenda subcommittee" began at noon but it has been postponed for a few hours, and what the committee decides will be approved. Of course, in principle, the entire team agrees that the draft submitted by the Palestinian delegation is the basis, and the committee discussing the agenda is doing so on the basis of the Palestinian plan, and it will add or delete from it until agreement is reached.

[Al-Husari] Why is the agenda so important and why this insistence on minute details when it is only an agenda?

[Sha'th] It is of organizational, not political, importance. We all want to agree on the issues to be covered and what points should be included under these issues. As to how we deal with these points, we could begin with the first then go to the third and then go back to the second. Within the context of the agenda, we will not be restricted. It constitutes a program of what we should agree upon before the negotiations end in two months time. To us, the agenda should be a matter of substance not time. In other words, it should determine the issues and not the time factor.

[Al-Husari] You will meet again in Taba next Wednesday. What will be your negotiation priorities?

[Sha'th] To us, every issue has priority. We only have two months. We are not talking about open negotiations. We should cover all the issues, and they are, in fact, very clear in the second appendix, the introduction, and articles 3 and 4, and actually in the rest of the agreement. I cannot say which is more or less important. All the issues are clear and the agenda should reflect the agreement.

[Al-Husari] Is the scheduling of the withdrawal urgent, to ensure implementation of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, by 13 December as stipulated in the agreement?

[Sha'th] The scheduling of the withdrawal is important, but I can say it is the easiest issue. There are more difficult issues such as the transfer of power and other issues which require time.

[Al-Husari] Definition of the Jericho area will be a complicated matter. The agreement speaks of the Jericho area. What did the Palestinian mean by the Jericho area when the agreement was being drafted in Oslo?

[Sha'th] It was agreed to use the phrase Jericho area because no agreement was reached in Oslo on the boundaries. Had there been agreement we would have said "the town of Jericho" or "the district of Jericho" or "the province of Jericho." The use of the word area meant leaving definition of the exact area and its boundaries to the negotiations. I believe that one of the important things we have to agree upon is the clear geographical definition of the Jericho area.

[Al-Husari] Can agreement be reached easily within two months?

[Sha'th] The problem is that we do not want fixed borders between Jericho and the rest of the West Bank, and we do not want to draw international borders between them but rather administrative borders linked to the first part of the agreement. Three months after the agreement, the special importance of these boundaries will almost end.

[Al-Husari] Could you give us an idea about the area the Palestinians at least are talking about.

[Sha'th] The matter is not left to the imagination. There is the Jericho district, previously covering an area of 340 square kilometers. There is disagreement regarding the area of that district—as it was under Jordanian rule before 1967 and as it is under Israeli occupation. The town of Jericho is small, and we would never accept just the town. It is of no consequence. Anyone who speaks of 27 square kilometers is not being realistic. We are talking about something closer to the district than the town, but I do not want to make the issue more difficult. It is under negotiation, and we will negotiate.

[Al-Husari] When do you expect the Palestinian officials in Tunis to begin entering the areas of Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] Very soon. I believe the idea now is to do that around January.

[Al-Husari] During the two days of negotiations in Taba you expressed a lot of optimism and you expressed satisfaction. Is that because specific achievements were made in Taba?

[Sha'th] We have a clear agreement between the PLO and Israel. There is no problem regarding the negotiating parties as was the case in Washington over a period of two years. We noticed from the beginning that the Israeli delegation and its leader were behaving very positively with the aim of achieving results as soon as possible.

Survey: Majority Would Vote for Pro-Accord Groups

TA2010052893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] A survey by a West Bank research body has found the majority of Palestinians in the territories would vote for groups that support the Israel-PLO peace accord. The survey by the Independent Center for Palestine Research and Studies found that if elections were held today, 48.9 percent would vote for Fatah or other groups that support the peace deal, 24.4 percent of those questioned said they would vote for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or other rejectionist groups, 11.8 percent preferred independent candidates, and almost 50 percent said they would vote for others. The survey also found almost 70 percent of those questioned ranked hope for jobs and fears of violence as their chief concerns during the transition to self-rule.

DFLP Explains Correct Identity of Gaza Victim

JN1910184293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] released a statement in Damascus yesterday on the killing of Mahmud Dardunah in Khan Yunus, saying he was a collaborator with Israel.

Mahmud Jamil Dardunah, a man from Jabalyah, contacted us today and denied the above report. Asked for an explanation, the DFLP said that the slain person is really called Mahmud Dardunah, that he is from Khan Yunus and is known by the alias Mahmud al-Lahham, and that he is not Mahmud Dardunah of Jabalyah, who is a member of the Gaza Strip chamber of commerce and the Jabalyah grand mosque Imam.

Cemetery for 'Martyrs' To Be Created in Territory

JN1910065493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] A Palestinian source has said that the PLO wants to set up a cemetery for the revolution's martyrs in the occupied territory. The bodies of Palestinian leaders buried in Arab countries will be moved to this cemetery. The same source added that the bodies of PLO leaders Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] will be the first to be buried in this cemetery.

Opposition Urged To Join Ranks, Attend Sanaa Meeting

JN1810220393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1811 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Opening commentary": "A Palestinian Assessment of the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles" by Palestinian Ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah]

[Text] The agreement on the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government in Washington on 13 September has become an accomplished fact, particularly after the Palestinian political leadership signed it, and also after the Palestinian legislative body; i.e., the PLO Central Council, endorsed it in accordance with the constitutional powers vested in it. What is important in this regard is that this agreement, which addresses general principles related to empowering the interim government during the interim period, and the consummation of independence as well as the proclamation of a Palestinian state in the final stage, constantly requires a Palestinian assessment whenever details are worked out and implemented on the ground. The agreement guarantees us some gains. The question posed concerns how we can promote these gains. Similarly, the agreement also contains some negative aspects. We must contemplate the means of mitigating and neutralizing the impact of these negative aspects. This is a clash of wills. This is dictated by adherence to rights. We must have the courage to cope with difficulties to promote the higher national interest.

In light of all this, brothers, the Palestinian national opposition is being called upon to heed two key rules. The first rule states that the opposition can maintain its own perspective, which would be respected and accorded due safeguards by the Palestinian democracy. The opposition must continue to struggle within the Palestinian frameworks, pursuing a democratic approach. It must continue to struggle within the ranks of the people to epitomize this perspective. The least the opposition could do is to turn this perspective into a tool for promoting Palestinian performance in the course of efforts to implement the agreement. The second rule states that the Palestinian national opposition must work with the proponents of the agreement to ensure the unity of ranks, to guarantee the optimal possible gains, and to thwart the efforts of hostile, agitated, or malicious parties, which seek to carry out acts of sabotage in our national arena, and to undermine the desired national accomplishment. These golden rules have been expressed and epitomized by the accord opponents who attended the PLO Central Council session, took part in crystallizing perspectives, expressed their concerns and fears, and, at the same time, made their own contributions to the collective Palestinian endeavor to produce a Palestinian assessment of the provisions of the accord.

We wish that other factions would follow suit. We hope that they will not remain outside the Palestinian ranks and arena. For, the position they have chosen to occupy cannot be safer for them than the Palestinian mountain harboring the majority of Palestinians [words indistinct] nor could it be more compassionate toward them than the Palestinian heart when hard times come. Furthermore, there is no arena that can open its doors for them to carry out permissible activities wider than the Palestinian arena. Hence, we hope that they will not remain hostages to pressure centers, and that they will not sell their Palestinian fleece to wolves. For, whoever fails to engage, along with his people, in the battle to make gains might find it difficult in the future to occupy a legitimate position within the ranks of his people, who are forging ahead to build a national entity on their national soil.

Given this Palestinian perspective, we hope that opposition factions, be they the Hamas Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, or the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will, at present, apply on one another a sort of positive rather than negative pressure. They must help one another attend the Palestinian meeting Yemen is hosting, thanks to a noble gesture made by brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. These factions, it is hoped, should not intimidate one another, apply pressure on one another, or level accusations at one another, because such a thing might result in reluctance to attend the meeting. This would, consequently, result in wasting a precious opportunity that would promote the interests of these factions, rather than those of their opponents.

We have strong faith that Islamic as well as leftist factions alike must possess a semblance of independence. However, this semblance of independence must not turn into smokescreens to cover up the positions of others, who might have ulterior motives. The Palestinian interest is what counts. It is the vindication of Palestinian interests that helps us extend bridges toward our Arab extensions and depth, and also toward our Islamic extensions and depths, and not vice versa. You are welcome to the Palestinian meeting due to convene in Sanaa on 30 October. It is our hope that the Palestinian factions will come to this meeting, with open hearts, with minds set to work, and with heads willing to appreciate the Palestinian perspective, first and foremost. Glory to Palestine.

PLO-Syrian Ties, Comprehensive Settlement Viewed

TA1810190593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Oct 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A Comprehensive Settlement Is the Guarantee"]

[Text] Numerous questions have been raised about the effect of the Palestinian-Israeli interim accord on the bilateral talks in Washington. A new round of those talks was scheduled to convene these days on all the negotiating tracks, namely, with the participation of Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese delegations, and of course the Israeli delegation.

Reports have indicated that this round might be postponed until the end of next month, particularly after the reservations shown by the Syrian and Lebanese delegations in accepting the invitations to attend the round. If this postponement takes place, it will somewhat impede the peace process, in which observers anticipated more breakthroughs in the wake of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord on a declaration of principles.

Undoubtedly, the Syrian role in the peace process is central. The Syrian brothers possess many of the cards of the political and nonpolitical game in the region. Any peace agreement that does not include all the Arab tracks is unacceptable to everyone. This has been stated by all the Arab sources. However, the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles accord is not a final peace agreement. Consequently, negotiations about its implementation are still continuing. Moreover, talks over a final settlement will begin only at least two years after the accord is implemented.

Official Palestinian sources have reiterated this point when addressing relations between the PLO and Syria. Lately, those relations have been marked by some sort of regrettable misunderstanding. A correct assessment of the interim accord must be made on the basis of a single and basic point, namely, that this accord should be viewed on the Palestinian and Arab levels, and even on the international level, as a conduit for a final settlement, not as a ceiling of that settlement. Hence, the assumption is that the accord will serve as an incentive for activating the other Arab tracks, especially the Syrian track, and lead to the enhancement of Palestinian-Arab relations, rather than constituting a wedge that leads to further fragmentation among brothers of a single path and a joint destiny.

The Palestinian side does not bear responsibility for the state of negotiations on the Syrian track. This is basically subject to Israel's seriousness in agreeing to a comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the Syrian response to Israeli conditions. The United States is the only one that can effectively convince Israel to realize this just Arab demand. That is if Washington has the will or the sincere desire to develop what has been achieved on the Palestinian track toward a just and comprehensive settlement on all tracks, because only such a comprehensive settlement can overcome the dangers and setbacks that have not disappeared yet from the road to peace.

Israel Warned Against Putting 'Syrian File on Hold'

TA1910152993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Syrian Track"]

[Text] The negotiating climate in particular, and relations between Syria and Israel in general, witnessed some kind of tension and edginess in the last few days. This reached its peak yesterday when Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres emphatically stated that Israel will not give Syria anything for nothing and that the Syrians must show seriousness in the negotiations.

Undoubtedly, such statements by both the Syrian and Israeli sides, apart from reflecting the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, might not necessarily be accurate. Numerous diplomatic statements might be one thing, and the actual negotiating situation might be something else. Consequently, the aim of uttering those statements could be to camouflage what is actually taking place between the negotiating parties.

On the basis of reports from many sources, the prevailing impression during the first days of last week was that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks were on the threshhold of witnessing real progress, whereby a declaration of principles would be signed between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon by the end of the current year at the lateest. Then came the recent statements about Syria's reservations on going to the upcoming round of talks and the possible postponement of this round to a date that would be agreed upon later.

This contradiction between developments, which was completed by the Israeli foreign minister's statements, was the incentive for the current tour by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the negotiating tracks, in the region, which he began yesterday by visiting Cairo. This tour is consistent with the U.S. Administration's proclaimed principles and the statements of President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which attach extreme importance to progress in achieving a Syrian-Israeli settlement.

If for various considerations Israel wants to put the Syrian file on hold perhaps for a few weeks or months, it should take into account the potential repercussions of this move and its effect on the peace process as a whole. None of the Arab parties involved in the peace process in general, and the Palestinians in particular, wish to stop progress in the negotiating process on any track, because the final objective of this process is implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially the exchange of Arab land for peace. Those resolutions speak about a comprehensive and just settlement, which will not be achieved at all if there is lack of interest in addressing any track, be it Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, or Jordanian. The Arab parties are in one boat, which they hope will sail toward real peace with the participation of everyone.

Algeria

Dembri Urges Talks With Nonviolent Forces

PM1810113093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Nur-al-Din al-Furaydi and Jamal Khashuqji report: "Algeria: Salvation Front Agrees To Negotiate; Authorities Continue Openness Policy"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, Brussels, Jeddah—Algerian officials yesterday emphasized the possibility of holding a dialogue with a number of leaders from the (dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to extricate the country from its crisis. The officials said that the dialogue should be with those who refuse to use violence as a means to achieve their aims. Responding to the authorities' signals, the FIS, which says influential Algerian figures have contacted it abroad, has announced its "willingness to negotiate, not hold a dialogue."

This political openness among internal parties coincides with new indications of an Algerian disagreement with some states which the authorities suspect of supporting armed Islamic groups. Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has warned "Libyan officials, not the people" about the consequences of interfering in Algeria's internal affairs. He reiterated previous accusations against Iran and Sudan, accusing them of facilitating the arrival of "Afghans" [those who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin] in Algeria.

In Brussels the day before yesterday, Dembri emphasized the Algerian leadership's determination to continue the dialogue with all the political forces that reject violence as a means to seize power, in preparation for holding a national conference and establishing the institutions of the transitional phase.

In a meeting held with members of the European Parliament's Foreign Policy and Joint Security Committee on Wednesday, he urged European countries not to shelter elements implicated in terrorist actions. Addressing the European deputies, he said that "the complexity lies in supporting terrorism committed by organized networks, which sometimes enjoy outside collusion"—a reference to some FIS supporters' seeking shelter in European states. He added that the elements that assassinated two French citizens in Sidi Bel Abbes some three weeks ago "have been arrested. Investigations have proved they entered Algeria from Moroccan territory after arriving from France." He highlighted the fundamentalist organizations' threat to the stability of the organization's [EC] countries. He said that "an Iranian-Sudanese network smuggled some 4,000 Arab fundamentalists who fought in Afghanistan to undermine the stability of the southern Mediterranean countries."

The Algerian foreign minister said that his country occupies an important position in the Arab Maghreb region and is seeking to develop "special" relations with the EC. He urged European countries to cancel the general debts owed by Algeria to help ease the burden of the debts estimated at some $20 billion.

Minister Dembri was eager to assure his European audience about the prospects for overcoming the political crisis Algeria has been experiencing for two years. He said that the dialogue currently being conducted with all the political organizations and parties "which refuse to use violence as a means to seize power, will enable us to lay down a common ground to be endorsed by a referendum before the end of the year. Then a presidential council would be formed to replace the present Higher [State] Council, in addition to a broadly based consultative council." The two institutions would prepare for running the transitional phase, which will take two to three years.

Answering AL-HAYAH's questions at a news conference, the Algerian minister did not rule out the possibility of holding a dialogue with FIS figures who accept the condition not to use violence as a means to reach power. He warned Libyan officials once again about "the consequences of interfering in Algeria's internal affairs." He told AL-HAYAH that his country "will respond to any new interference in every way," pointing out that the warning is addressed to "Libyan officials, not the fraternal Libyan people who are bound to the Algerian people by ties of brotherhood and cooperation." On a previous occasion Algerian authorities strongly condemned Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statement on political conditions in Algeria. [passage committed]

In Jeddah, AL-HAYAH contacted Cheik Rabih Kebir, spokesman for the FIS abroad, and asked him his opinion of the announcement the day before yesterday of the formation of the national dialogue committee in Algeria. He said that the committee's formation was "below the hopes and expectations built on it (...). It is nothing more than another organ belonging to the ruling clique." He expressed the Front's willingness to "negotiate, not hold a dialogue," with Algerian authorities. He said: "We have for some time been demanding negotiations between real representatives of the people and the usurpers of power."

He described the dialogue committee as weak in terms of representation, because it does not represent the political forces in the country and cannot invite anyone to a real dialogue. He said that the political leaderships in Algeria had declined to participate in the plans proposed by the government. He attributed this to "the ambiguity of these plans, haphazardness, and unclarity of the aims and intentions. It has become clear to everyone that there is no unanimity inside the regime and that there is a real conflict among its leaders."

He denied the existence of direct contacts between him and the other Algerian parties. However, he said, "we know that no Algerian party can enter into an agreement or a national reconciliation formula without the regime's fulfilling basic conditions: releasing the cheiks and all the detainees, granting political freedoms, resuming the electoral course, and dealing with the FIS. It seems that extremists inside the regime still have the upper hand, thus they will reject these demands."

Asked what he meant by differentiating between dialogue and negotiation, he said: "Dialogue is between equal parties not recognizing one another. We do not recognize the legitimacy of the present regime, nor do they recognize our legitimacy. But they know who is the real decisionmaker in Algeria, and we know who is confronting the people and imposing his will by force."

Russian Embassy Official on Killing of Officers

LD1910202793 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The wave of killings in Algeria continues, and foreigners appear to have become the latest target for armed groups. A month after the killing of two Frenchmen, two Russian lieutenant colonels were killed in an ambush on Saturday evening [16 October]. This was learned just today. Here is Igor Palyura, No. 2 at the Russian Embassy in Algiers: [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Jerome Bastion] Has the Russian community here received any threats before?

[Palyura] No, it's the first time. I repeat, it is the first time that the wave of banditry and terrorism has affected the Russian community here. There are quite a lot of us here: About 3,000 experts, diplomats, trainers, and doctors are working in Algeria, and it is really very dangerous.

[Bastion] Has the embassy given any advice to Russian citizens here, or possibly to the families, to return to Russia, to change residence, or to gather together in places that are easier to monitor?

[Palyura] No, not yet; nothing very specific, but we'll see. It depends on how things develop.

[Bastion] Have the Algerian authorities and the security forces identified the attackers?

[Palyura] No, no. Not as far as I know. I don't have that information. [passage omitted]

3 Foreign Technicians Feared Killed

JN1910124493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Qusayy Salih al-Darwish dispatch from Algiers]

[Excerpt] While the Russian Embassy [in Algiers] was announcing the killing of two Russian colonels, some sources have also reported that three foreign technicians from Italy, the Philippines, and Latin America might also have been killed in the past few days by unknown armed men. So far, we have not been able to confirm these reports from reliable sources. If this report is true, this means that the killing of foreign technicians continues. This, consequently, will directly affect the presence of foreign communities in Algeria. The majority of the foreigners in Algeria are businessmen, experts, and technicians. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 3; Policeman Killed

LD1910194893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Three terrorists were killed yesterday afternoon by the security forces during a search operation in Oued Foda, in the Chlef region. During the operation, six people were located but three managed to escape. Ouasside Djilali, a policeman, was fatally injured during the exchange of fire.

We have also heard that four terrorists who were involved in the derailment of a train near Kadiria, in Bouira, have been arrested.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Brief Visit

NC1910210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a visit of several hours to Egypt. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director for political affairs in the President's Office.

Holds Talks With Musa

NC1910214993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a visit of several hours to Egypt. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director for political affairs at the President's Office.

Musa and 'Arafat held a meeting that was attended by Dr. al-Baz and the Palestinian delegation members accompanying 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Middle East and the results of the meetings of the Liaison Committee and the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

Departs, Praises Clinton

NC2010082493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0738 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo early today following a visit of several hours to Egypt.

During the visit, 'Arafat held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The talks dealt with the negotiations the Palestinian delegation will hold with the Israeli delegation in Taba today and the latest developments in the region.

In a predeparture statement, president 'Arafat praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to support the Palestinian people and their cause on every local, regional, and international level. He said the Palestinian people and leadership will never forget that President Mubarak was the first to boost the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Asked what went on in his meeting with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator on the Middle East peace negotiations, 'Arafat said the most important thing was Ross' assertion of a complete U.S. readiness to advance the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and make it a practical reality.

'Arafat described this U.S. readiness as good, excellent, stressing that all the views coincide: Participation should be on every level to propel the peace process forward. This is what U.S. President Bill Clinton highlighted.

The Palestinian president hailed President Clinton for "sponsoring the international conference to support the Palestinian self-government authority, which was held earlier this month in Washington, and the effort to collect funds to help the Palestinian people confront the new circumstances, especially as the conditions in the occupied territories have toughened under the occupation."

'Arafat added: Our people in the Gaza Strip are now suffering famine; these funds will help us to improve our conditions at the start of the peace process.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's declaration that two months are not enough to conclude all the issues relating to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, 'Arafat said the committee has met only once and will meet again today in Taba. He said two months are quite enough if the intentions are good.

Dr. al-Baz, who was seeing the Palestinian president off at the airport, said 'Arafat telephoned President Mubarak, and they reviewed the latest Middle East developments. He said that in his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa 'Arafat reviewed reports on the discussions at the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli committees in Cairo and Taba. He said 'Arafat also met separately with members of a delegation from the occupied territories and members of an American Jewish delegation now visiting Cairo.

Information Minister Returns From Libya

NC1910204793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo this evening after a visit to Libya during which he was received by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in his office in Tripoli.

Comments on Libya Visit

NC1910213893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo from Libya this evening. Libyan leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received al-Sharif in his office in Tripoli earlier today. In an arrival statement, al-Sharif said that his mission is part of continuing consultations over Arab and regional issues. He noted that he will convey brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi's views on Libya's position after the initiatives it made to the UN secretary general regarding a solution to the Lockerbie crisis. He said that President Mubarak has made efforts to bring the views of various parties closer since the crisis began.

This consultation comes before President Mubarak's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Mubarak Leaves for Saudi Arabia To Meet King

NC2010110093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Saudi Arabia this morning on a short visit lasting several hours during which he will meet King Fahd. President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Presidential Office Chief Zakariya 'Azmi, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Musa said President Mubarak's meeting and talks with King Fahd will be within the framework of the two Arab leaders' consultations on events in the region, the peace process, and Arab relations in light of developments.

In a statement before leaving Cairo for Saudi Arabia with the delegation, Musa said he will pay a working visit to Jordan tomorrow for several hours within the framework of the consultations with Jordan on Arab relations, the Arab situation, and developments.

Musa said he held talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat yesterday to discuss ways of implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Arab situation, and Arab relations.

Mubarak, Mitterrand Hold Talks in Cairo

NC1910204693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, who stopped over at Cairo Airport this evening while traveling back home from Yemen at the end of a tour that also took him to Saudi Arabia and Mauritius.

The two presidents completed their talks over a dinner banquet President Mubarak held for the French President.

Musa Comments on Meeting

NC1910213493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2033 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand left Cairo this evening after a stopover of several hours at Cairo Airport. President Mubarak saw him off at the airport.

Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand held talks at the Presidential lounge at Cairo Airport and had a working dinner.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who attended the talks, said that President Mitterrand was returning from the Francophone Conference. He held a meeting with President Mubarak on his arrival at Cairo Airport, and the talks continued at a working dinner. He pointed out that the talks dealt with the peace process and President Mubarak's views on it. The talks also touched on the situation in the Arab region in general, North Africa, Europe, and Russia. He noted that the talks will be completed between the two presidents in Paris at the end of next week, when President Mubarak will visit France after his trip to the United States. He said that the Libyan-Western crisis was among the issues that President Mubarak discussed with President Mitterrand.

Musa Views Lebanese Stance on PLO-Israel Accord

NC1910201893 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 14 Oct 93 p 11

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Yusuf al-Huwayk in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Huwayk] It has been said that the Israeli prime minister, in his meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo on 6 October, asked Mubarak to try to persuade Syrian and Lebanese officials to hold meetings with the Israelis on the level of foreign ministers or prime ministers. How true is this?

[Musa] No, these reports are inaccurate. Anyway, what matters are negotiations, which are being conducted on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange; that is, Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese territory, restoration of full Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, and the establishment of peace between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel.

This requires discussions on the issues of security, withdrawal, and peace on the two fronts. We expect this to happen and we can help achieve it. If the two sides decide to meet at various levels, high-ranking or otherwise, it is their right to decide knowing that the Palestinians and Jordanians held public and secret meetings with the Israelis.

[Al-Huwayk] Did Rabin not ask Egypt to mediate with the Syrians and Lebanese on this matter?

[Musa] Not exactly. [passage omitted]

[Al-Huwayk] Although slow, the Arab-Israeli negotiations have made progress through the Gaza-Jericho agreement. How do you view the course of the talks, and are you optimistic about the results that might be achieved?

[Musa] I am optimistic. The negotiations are moving in the right direction,and there will be progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Huwayk] Has Egyptian diplomacy recently played any role with Lebanon and Syria to sign agreements with Israel?

[Musa] [passage omitted] We placed all our efforts at the disposal of Lebanese and Syrian diplomacies, as I said. We are all on the same side and in the same boat. Our interest in liberating Syrian and Lebanese territories is not less than the interest we had in liberating Egyptian territory. We find no reason why Syria should not regain all its territory as Egypt did, or why Lebanon should not restore its sovereignty over all its territory as Egypt did. This is what we are doing and talking about.

[Al-Huwayk] The Palestinians were the main cause of war in Lebanon. All Arab countries, including Lebanon, supported them in their just cause. But they concluded a peace agreement with Israel without consulting or informing any Arab country, not even Syria or Lebanon. Lebanon expressed reservations on the agreement...

[Musa, interrupting] I still do not understand why you expressed reservations. Why should Lebanon express reservations on a decision made by the Palestinians? What will this Palestinian decision lead to? It will lead to a Palestinian entity. This is the first step, but it will gradually lead to a Palestinian entity. So, you are supposed to be very happy because the Palestinian entity has finally found its way, and there will be an authority for all Palestinians, including those living in Lebanon. Lebanon's objection to the Palestinian decision is incomprehensible. The Palestinians did not ask us or consult with us, they did not ask or consult with anybody. This matter concerns them; we placed no Egyptian veto on the Palestinians. They are free to accept what they like and reject what they do not like. By the same token, I believe that there should be no Lebanese or Syrian vetos on the Palestinian decision. So far, I have not understood the Lebanese objection, despite my close links with the brother ministers and officials in Lebanon. I cannot agree with them on their reservations. [passage omitted]

Israeli Envoy on Talks With Syria, Arab Ties

NC1910183693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has stated that progress can be made in the Israeli-Syrian talks if meetings are held between senior Syrian leaders and Israeli officials. He expressed his belief that a summit meeting between the two countries can solve many problems that obstruct the progress of the talks. During a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents Society in Cairo today, Sultan said that the Israeli- Syrian negotiations made some progress in Washington, but "they are still hampered by the lack of clarity in the Syrian concept of peace." He noted that Israel is prepared to discuss withdrawal from the Golan when it understands the Syrian concept of comprehensive peace.

Sultan expressed his hope that the visits by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region will succeed in advancing the peace talks with Syria or in preparing for a high-level meeting between Israel and Syria.

Sultan noted that Israel will continue its negotiations with the PLO to implement the agreement on the dates outlined in it. He described the previous and current talks, including the meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the meetings of the Liaison Committee and the Gaza-Jericho Committee, as positive and said that a spirit of cooperation and a desire to implement the agreement prevailed during the meetings. He said that Israel is currently discussing the Palestinian request to release detainees to provide an atmosphere of confidence, noting that a large number of detainees will be released as quickly as possible.

On the formation of a committee on Jerusalem, as 'Arafat requested, Sultan noted that 'Arafat asked Rabin to facilitate the entry of West Bank and Gaza residents to Jerusalem and that Rabin agreed immediately. He said that 'Arafat chose Faysal al-Husayni as representative of the Palestinian side and Rabin chose Interior Minister Shahal as the Israeli representative to discuss the issue. He noted that both parties met in Jerusalem to discuss the issue, but he denied that this committee was formed to consider the future or status of Jerusalem at present.

On the Lebanese-Israeli talks, Sultan pointed out that Israel requested formation of a joint committee to discuss security arrangements between the two countries, but no agreement has been reached on this issue. He expressed his belief that the Israeli-Lebanese talks cannot make tangible progress unless similar progress is made with Syria.

On negotiations between Israel and certain Arab countries, such as Qatar and Morocco, Sultan said that Israel gave up a lot to sign the agreement with the Palestinians. Israel, he said, believes that the Arab side—the Arab Gulf countries, the Arab Maghreb, or others—has to back this agreement by initiating a dialogue with Israel. He denied knowledge of the possibility of establishing ties between Israel and any Arab country at present.

On Israeli-Egyptian relations, Sultan said that they are substantial relations and have made considerable progress after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which is evident in the continuing high-level meetings between the two countries and their common desire to advance the peace efforts.

Paper Faults Israel for Attacks Against Lebanon

NC1910071793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes that the continuing Israeli bombardment of south Lebanese villages and towns, while there is mounting optimism for a comprehensive peace being achieved between Israel and the Arab states, is a blot on the peace process.

In its commentary today, the paper notes that the Rabin government, while taking its first serious step toward peace, should have used self-restraint and not poured rockets and bombs over south Lebanon. This is particularly true, as Israel's repeated aggression is merely in retaliation for attacks carried out by the Lebanese Resistance against an army of Lebanese mercenaries [South Lebanese Army], which acts as a "watchdog" for Israel. The paper adds that this Army, by any standard, represents a group of traitors to their homeland and people.

The paper believes that Yitzhaq Rabin could consolidate his position as a peace advocate by speeding up an agreement with Lebanon on withdrawing the occupation troops from the south after the necessary arrangements are made to allow the Lebanese Army to take responsibility for ending the resistance operations from Lebanese territory across Israel's northern border. This, the paper adds, would allow the peace effort to concentrate on the Damascus-Tel Aviv track.

Musa Meets Ugandan Official on African Issues

NC1910164193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Kirunda Kivejinja, Ugandan minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently in Cairo. The two officials held talks on several issues discussed by President Husni Mubarak and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni during the latter's stopover in Cairo Airport yesterday, including the situation in Africa in general and in Somalia in particular.

The two officials also discussed Egypt's application for membership in the East African Preferential Trade Organization. The organization will discuss the Egyptian application at its next meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Kampala in November.

Security Arrests Killer of 2 Officers 18 Oct

NC1910185793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1759 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Security forces apprehended terrorist Ramadan Rajab Abu-al-'Aynayn, a prominent member of the al-Shawqiyun Organization, who took part in shooting police officers Major Haytham Abu-al-'Aynayn and Lieutenant Nabil Ibrahim, who were martyred in the al-Marj area yesterday. A responsible security source stated that the terrorist admitted in detail his participation in the incident. He also gave information on the rest of the fugitive terrorists. Security forces are currently surrounding and searching the areas the terrorists frequent to arrest them. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Involved in Killing Officer Arrested

NC1910173493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 19 Oct (MENA)—The chief of the al-Nakhilah Police Station in Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate, has succeeded in capturing fugitive al-Numayri Ramadan Sayyid Hasan, a prominent terrorist suspected in the assassination of Major General 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shimi, assistant security director of Qina.

The terrorist was involved in the incident. He provided shelter for the terrorists who launched the attack and helped them escape.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi immediately ordered a large financial reward for the chief of the al-Nakhilah Police Station for his efforts and outstanding work in capturing the terrorist.

Muslim Brotherhood on Acts Against Labor Party

NC1910141393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 1

["Text" of statement by the Muslim Brotherhood on the arrest of Labor Party leaders; place and date not given]

[Text] Praise be to God and peace be upon his messenger. The Muslim Brotherhood is deeply disturbed by the state authorities' violation of freedom of expression and opinion, as demonstrated by the detention of Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, and AL-SHA'B journalists to question them about articles they wrote. The Muslim Brotherhood denounces the arbitrary measures taken against them, as officials of a leading opposition party, and the harsh treatment they received during their detention at a police station.

In order to honor and consolidate the principle of freedom of expression, they could have been questioned about what was attributed to them without being detained, something that the Brotherhood has always called for, particularly now that everyone says that controversial issues can only be handled by adhering to democracy and freedom of expression. May God guide everyone toward what is good for the country and the people and spare beloved Egypt and its dear and noble people the evils of sedition. He is verily capable if he so wills it.

Opposition Paper Criticizes Cabinet Formation

NC1910075193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Shock to Public Opinion and Dashed Hopes"]

[Text] The masses' disappointment is as strong as their yearning for change and modernization. Darkness is once again engulfing their life.

The masses of the nation have pinned their great hopes on expected change. They have dreamed of a new government in form and substance. The new government has indeed been formed, but with the same old form and substance.

The new government is wearing its old garb, almost shabby from the many holes in it. The new government has kept the same old faces that controlled the important and influential centers in the old government. More oddly still is the fact that some of these people are now stronger and more influential than ever before for several reasons, the first of which is that they have remained in power, despite all that was said about them, when the masses have been expecting them to leave the government and be replaced by others.

The second reason that these people have more control now is that the elements that opposed and fought them have been dropped, thus giving the impression that these people have won.

The third reason is that these people—who have been under constant criticism—now have broader authority and hence their influence has increased and has even spread.

The nation's masses have dreamed of a change in both personnel and policies. But now that the same people are staying, it is certain that there will be no changes in policies, exactly as the hopes for a change in people have been dashed.

The dream and the hope that we will prepare for the 21st century with personnel and policies capable of facing the challenges of this new century, which even developing countries are preparing for, are lost.

Yes. There are constants in the economic reform plan, including the importance of keeping the same prime minister. But since the changes have included the economy minister and the Central Bank governor, who were the pillars of this reform, then why haven't the changes spread to include others, too? Why keep elements that have gratefully given all they could and have nothing new to offer in ideas, policies, or even implementation?

The masses are also amazed at the decision to continue with the minister's technical policy and with this insistence on ignoring his political role.

But it appears that we want people who say yes without arguing and reject those who oppose what is wrong or refuse to agree without argument!!

Removal of Central Bank Governor Explained

NC1810215293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by correspondent Jamal Shawqi]

[Excerpts] Responsible sources have revealed the reasons for announcing the resignation of Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid only hours before the ministerial changes.

The sources said that Dr. Hamid had prepared a report on the national economy's performance in line with the annual reports prepared by the Central Bank. They added that there were large discrepancies between the Central Bank figures and those presented by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to the political leadership and the IMF. The sources said that the differences centered around figures on inflation, which is the annual increase in prices. The Central Bank's figures noted that the inflation rate has reached 15 percent, while Dr. Sidqi's figures do not exceed 9 percent. The Central Bank's report contained the real figures for the budget deficit, the balance of payments, and the trade balance. The sources added that the bank's report was withdrawn and was not discussed at the board meeting. [passage omitted]

According to the constitution, the Central Bank governor cannot be dismissed from his post. He is usually forced to resign.

Minister Discusses 'Sumed' Pipeline, Oil Issues

NC1710151993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Minister of Petroleum Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has affirmed that the economics of the Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean] Pipeline, which passes through Egyptian territory, will not be affected by any alternate projects to transship Arab Gulf oil.

He was commenting on questions raised by some people recently on the effect of the Israeli pipeline to carry oil from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean that was proposed in a Tel Aviv University study.

At his meeting with Egyptian petroleum sector officials today, al-Banbi pointed out that a group of oil-producing Arab countries in the region participate in the Sumed pipeline project and get profits from their shares in it. He said the share of these countries—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Qatar—amounts to 50 percent of the project's capital. Therefore, he added, the shipment of oil through the Sumed produces revenues for these countries that cannot be achieved by other means of shipment unless shipment costs are reduced drastically.

Al-Banbi said that the Egyptian petroleum sector, in coordination with the Suez Canal, works for the shipment of the largest part of Arab Gulf oil through Egypt. He added that Egypt gets 85 percent of the Sumed line revenues in terms of transit fees, profit, and processing taxes, plus its share of the profits.

He noted that the Egyptian petroleum sector's plan for the next stage aims to intensify its efforts to explore for and produce oil, to expand gas production, implement several projects jointly with some Arab countries, set up new projects to limit the use of lead and reduce its content in gasoline as part of the efforts to protect the environment. [passage omitted]

The petroleum minister said that the use of natural gas to power the cars and buses of the petroleum sector workers will increase starting next year. He stressed the importance of securing all the necessary appropriations for the environmental protection projects in all the oil industry activities.

Libya

Emergency Meeting of Arab League Urged

LD1910162293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] A source from the General People's Committee for Unity issued the following statement:

- In view of successive stances and statements by some Arab parties on how to deal with the Zionist entity;
- and in view of the meetings held with Zionist officials, as confirmed by the official statement issued by the foreign minister of the State of Qatar;
- and in view of calls to breach the Arab boycott of the enemy;
- and as the Great Jamahiriyah is aware of the dimensions of the threats posed to pan-Arab security, and of the circumstances of the Arab-Zionist conflict;
- and in view of the gravity of that course at a time when the enemy persists in its stances, amasses weapons of mass destruction and guided missiles which threaten all Arab cities—not to mention Zionist crimes since the usurpation of Palestine, the expulsion of its people, and the occupation of Arab land—and tries every means to efface the pan-Arab identity of the Arab nation, to undermine its interests, in order to control its capabilities, to dismantle the unity of the Arab stance, and to single out Arab countries one after the other;
- and given that those contacts and meetings contravene Arab charters and resolutions and weaken the Arab stance even further in implementation of those

charters and resolutions and respect for our pan-Arab commitments;

the Great Jamahiriyah has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to study the matter, to examine means of preventing the deterioration of the Arab stance and its disintegration under the ferocious offensive on the Arab nation, and to call on member countries to adhere to the spirit and stipulations of the charter and resolutions adopted within the framework of the League, including resolutions on the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Mubarak Envoy

LD1910131093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received [no date as heard] brother Safwat al-Sharif, the information minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt and envoy of President Husni Mubarak, within the framework of continuous consultations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Killing of 'Traitors'

LD1810134693 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Women's Revolutionary Force in Misratah on 14 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Good morning. [Interruption from members of the audience]. May God bless you. [Members of the audience shout slogans]

First, I would like to thank you for yesterday's and today's reception, with all this warmth and open hearts. [passage omitted] After the raid in 1986 and the destruction of my house, the people of Misratah collected money from your own pockets and built a resting house where we are now. It is considered a home, and this was an unforgettable act, i.e. people collecting money from their own pockets and building a home for a family whose house had been destroyed as a result of the American, British, and Atlantic aggression ...[audience shouts slogans]

In fact, all our children are grateful and embarrassed in front of the people of Misratah, who shouldered this responsibility and built this house here. By the way, when I was a student in Misratah—I must say that until the advent of the [1969] revolution Libya was indeed colonized—this site, where the house was built, used to be a farm belonging to an Italian. When we were students in Misratah, we used to know this farm as Conte Voldi. [passage omitted]

If we had to erect a monument for every battle in Misratah, you would find in every street and every place a monument commemorating battles waged by Misratah against Italian colonialism. It was in fact the contribution of the sons of Misratah that led to the historic defeat inflicted on Italy in the famous battle of al-Ghardabiyah. Despite the losses Misratah sustained, in men and buildings, and despite the suffering it faced at the hands of the Italians, it earned itself glory and prestige. All the Arabs and all the Libyans are proud of this city, which honored our history and did not get involved in any complicity with the colonialists or in any treason. What used to be suffering and hardship has now been turned into pride and glory. [passage omitted]

Despite all these sacrifices and this steadfastness and the Libyan people's rejection, in the same month, of colonialism—we refused to see a European, a Christian, and someone from overseas come and rule our country—they still managed to establish themselves because of the traitors. These traitors are just like woodworms; they attack from the inside. Like the insect which bores into plant stems and which the farmers—and this is an agricultural city—are suffering from. It is a small insect that came from abroad and that was perhaps exported by the Americans. [passage omitted]

When locusts or birds come from outside and attack [the farm], they may be countered and eliminated and the treetrunk or plant stem can remain intact and the crop can be saved. But when things attack from the inside, like woodworms, this is dangerous. So I must tell you that the traitors are a bigger threat to our future, freedom, and independence than colonialism. It was the traitors who enabled Italy to go deep inside Libya. The Italians on their own could not have advanced into this desert or these mountains. They would not have managed to catch 'Umar al-Mukhtar [resistance hero] had it not been for a traitor who gave his whereabouts.

Treason is an abominable deed, and those who commit it will go to the lowest level of hell, because they are hypocrites who do not show themselves as they really are. They are cursed. Unfortunately, the devil has supporters and the dirty and base things need to be done by these people without any shame. Treason and treachery apply to those who betrayed their country out of greed and put out their hands to the Italians and took money. [passage omitted]

We fought Italy for decades, and in the end Italy was defeated and now the Libyan people are free in their land. Now there is a new confrontation and a power wants to colonize us. Without beating around the bush: The West wants to colonize the Arabs once again. If they find a way to humiliate us, they humiliate us in front of the world, just as is happening now with the Israelis. This is a farce and a very clear attempt to degrade the Arabs, humiliate them, and undermine their morale. Every Arab is expected to put his hands above his head and surrender.

Why should we surrender? We still have the capacity to resist, and we will triumph. So why should we surrender? What has forced Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians, or any other Arab state to receive the Israelis and surrender to them? Who said that the Israelis were in a good situation? Not at all. So-called Israel is now in a bad situation, and it has no future any more. So why do we not stand fast? Who said that America would always be on Israel's side? No. The Americans now realize that this Jewish statelet is a heavy burden on the Americans, since they are paying huge taxes to give so many billions every year to the Zionist entity. If a referendum is held in America, it would show that everybody is against so-called Israel. What have we got to do with this Jewish state in the Middle East, they say. Why are we supporting it? Fine, what is the reason behind this friendship between Christians and Jews—they say—if it was the Jews who killed Christ? So why is there friendship between us and them?

Even the Vatican, which represents all Catholics, is refusing to establish relations with the Jewish state, as it believes that Christ was killed by the Jews. The Americans say: We are wearing crosses around our necks, and there are crosses in the street, in the church and everywhere. What is the significance of a cross? The cross means that Jesus was crucified. Who crucified Jesus? The Jews. So why are we paying huge taxes to support the Jews? The ordinary American hates the Jew.

Moreover, we have an argument: The Palestinian people must return to their land. If the Palestinian people return, it is great, do not get me wrong. But if the Palestinian people do not return, this means that the Palestinian problem has not been resolved. Therefore, why this welcome for the Jews and the opening of doors to them, and this beating of drums for them as if the problem has been resolved and as if there was not any problem? What is this idea that there is no problem anymore? On the contrary, it is now that the problem has become more complex, because the last hope has been lost. They were holding negotiations in Madrid, and the entire world was taking part in them; and there was a belief that these negotiations would allow the Palestinian people to return to their land and to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. But these negotiations were aborted, and they ended with the Gaza-Jericho agreement. So, on the contrary then, this is a very bad result. This will reverse everything. This is a relapse.

Therefore there should not be any welcome. Why this welcome? Is every Arab country competing to open its doors to the Israelis? They compete with one other in these things. What has made the Arabs reach this level?

If they are lying sprawled and letting go, the disgraceful capitulation may lead to shifting the Arabs out of backwardness or it may bring them gold and silver, so that the rain will come and bring them the garden of Eden, and they can then perhaps say that we have lain stretched out and surrendered because America is giving us gold and silver. This is going to get us out of the state of underdevelopment and make us join progress.

However, this can never happen. America has its own problems to solve. Why did they elect the new American President? They elected him because he told them: I will solve America's difficult and serious domestic problems. For this reason they elected him. They said to him: Are there any more adventures abroad? He told them: No, there are no more adventures abroad. Are there more foreign bases abroad on which we spend money while we are starving? He told them: No, there are no more military bases abroad. Are there any more interventions in the world and the spending of money abroad? He told them: No, there is not. He kept harping on this theme. Clinton's election campaign concentrated wholly on saying that he was going to solve America's problems and that he was concerned about the American citizen and his problems. [passage omitted]

Actually he closed down 100 military bases, which existed abroad that the American people have been funding. This is a great step—closing down 100 military bases. He canceled the Star Wars program, which was started by the mad man Reagan; arming outer space. Clinton scrapped it. No more arming of outer space or anything else. First, the Americans should be provided with food.

America has the biggest debts, and America has the biggest inflation [as heard]. The country which has inflation and unemployment side by side can be found nowhere else except in the West and especially in America. America is heavily burdened with debts; the biggest state in the world is heavily burdened with debts. A quarter of its population suffer from cancer, and they do not seem to be able to cure them, even though there is a cure for cancer, but American citizens cannot pay for the treatment.

The problems which America is coping with, the thing which led Clinton to gain power was this: He told them, I am going to solve America's domestic problems, and I will not pay attention to foreign adventures. I believe that Clinton is sincere in this promise. He did take some steps. First, he did not intervene in Yugoslavia. He is closing down military bases abroad. And now he is going to withdraw from Somalia. Definitely, he is going to drop the issue of Iraq, the pursuit, and self-inflicted embarrassment.

It is because these things are not sensible. They were committed by Bush and by Reagan. Why then is it that we, the Arabs, are impatient even though we see that in time along this road America will drop what is called Israel? Who said that Israel has a future? This is what I am trying to say about America. Who said that Israel has a future? It is a mistake and those who committed it will definitely pay the price for it. Building a Jewish state in Palestine is a historic mistake.

Establishing the State of Israel was a sympathetic act and a reaction only. Therefore, this reaction is temporary. Sympathetic action is not everlasting. It was because the allies hated Hitler for fighting them. They triumphed over him. The Jews came along and said: We are among the victims of Hitler. They were told, to spite Hitler we will give you a state in Palestine. At that time, it was a reaction and a sympathetic act. About two or three years after the end of World War II the so-called State of Israel was established. The smoke from the war was still in the atmosphere; they set up that state.

This has been a wrong measure from the start. They set up West and East Germany; they partitioned Berlin and built the Berlin Wall. They took a number of measures, and now they have demolished the Berlin Wall and unified West and East Germany. Therefore, the State of Israel will also be abolished, because it was one of the things that was done after World War II as a reaction, to spite Hitler, against Germany.

If the Arabs can be patient, the future is never in favor of the Israelis. The whole world will abandon the so-called State of Israel. This is because it is a mistake. These people know that this land is not their land. Those who were brought out of the Soviet Union about two years ago when the Soviet Union was still around, all the world knows that these people had no relationship with Palestine and only because they are Jews. Those who were brought out of Ethiopia—the Falashas—this Jewish tribe that existed in Africa for 5,000 years. How can they bring it over to Palestine? It would have been more appropriate for the Palestinians who were in Palestine in 1948 to have been taken back to Palestine. Because they have a right to return.

What I am saying is that I want to draw the attention of the Arabs and say to them that by lying sprawled and racing to surrender, the Arab governments who have taken this road will be sorry. Any Arab ruler who takes this road will also be sorry and will pay a heavy price, because he will be contributing to entrenching a false entity that poses a danger to Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Egypt, Sudan, and the Arabian Peninsula.

These people have nuclear missiles with a 4,000-mile range. They are not directed at Gaza or Jericho. They are directed at Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and all these states who want this poisoned dagger, which is being used to pierce our heart, want it to remain.

Anyone who welcomes the Israelis and paves the way for them will be working against the future of the Arab nation. This poses a danger to the coming Arab generations, and we should stand up to it. These generations of which you and your children are included should oppose this danger, if with nothing else, with the tongue, and stand up to this train.

Treason is an abominable act that has allowed the Israeli enemy to be where it is now. Anyone who paves the way for the Israeli enemy commits high treason against the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Now, we should seek traitors, those who pave the way for the Americans, and kill them. The Americans today are like the Italians yesterday. The traitors of today are like the traitors of yesterday. The traitors of October 1911 are like those of October 1993. A traitor, giving the fact that he is doing a despicable job, does not work in the open.

You, however, who are doing a great job, are here working in the open, carrying banners and green flags and making a noise without paying attention to anyone. Why? Because you are doing a glorious job, i.e. we represent freedom and dignity and defend our right to live in our land as free and honorable people and our right to have control over our resources, our oil, and everything else over which we should have right of ownership and control so as to be able to build our future as we think fit.

A traitor, however, cannot speak with a loud voice, because he is carrying out a despicable job. He has to work in the dark and has to be a hypocrite with a double face. [Member of audience interrupts to suggest that traitors are like bats]

Yes, they are like bats, you are correct, they are like bats. He is like a bat, and therefore one must look for him to eliminate him before confronting America. And this is a closed matter; it is not open to discussion. No one should be able to defend a traitor, even if he is a son, a husband, a father, or a brother. He should be disowned by everyone. He was doing a despicable job, which is morally shameful and is a serious deed. Shameful to his family and tribe and a serious act, which is detrimental to his country. Thus, no one should object to the routing of traitors. [Chanting] [passage omitted]

Therefore, in addition to this chanting and readiness, there is an agenda before us. When we say that we reject the enemies of the al-Fatih revolution, as the sister in the audience said, and when we say: Traitors out, and crush traitors, we have to know who those traitors are beforehand, [words indistinct], then crush them afterward. That requires each one of us to watch out for heretics, for those who work for the CIA, and for stray dogs or those who have something to do with them. Could you imagine someone allowing himself to be included on the list of stray dogs? When one becomes a dog barking for the Americans and goes along with them, does not that mean that he is a stray dog without an owner? [passage omitted]

Thus, every one of us should open his eyes wide open and look for traitors. If there is another confrontation with the enemy, we will tie the dogs of America down with ropes and cut their throats so America can see what has happened to her dogs, whom she would have relied upon.

We should start the search right now for a dog who might be barking in the interest of the enemy. And we must not be hesitant or reluctant to do so, because such a task is for the sake of the supreme interests of our country, for the future generations, and our [Arab] nation. We should not create another Palestine here.

Aidid has been protected by the Somali people. If someone had thought he was a traitor, he would have by now reported his whereabouts; they would have killed him by now and that would have been the end of the resistance.

You should be aware of how dangerous a traitor is. A traitor can do what fleets fail to achieve. Italy's fleet anchored off this shore and could not do anything until the traitors helped her. Traitors helped her to achieve her aims. Hence, a traitor could achieve what fleets failed to achieve.

Look at a traitor, a traitor would not say this is my country, and these are my people, who can be killed or destroyed by the enemy. No, he would not consider these things at all; he has a dead consciousness.

And look at what heretics are doing in their countries. Yesterday, a heretic or a group of heretics derailed a train with 26 wagons [in Algeria]. They laid a mine, and as a result 26 wagons were overturned. France could not do such a thing when she was at war with Algeria. Is this Islam?

Algeria today needs every wagon and every shilling; she is facing an economic crisis. Is this a national and Islamic act? Is it right to derail a train in Algeria and destroy 26 wagons, 16 of which were carrying fuel, and as a result of which they all exploded? Palestinians could not carry out such an act in Palestine. The IRA could not do such a thing in Britain, which has been occupying its country.

Even in wars people could not carry out a devastating act like this one. But a hypocrite, who has a dead conscience and could not care less about causing damages to his own country, Algeria, can carry out such a repulsive act. Is Islam like this? If you go and ask them why, they would retort that it was in the name of Islam, in the name of the Islamic Salvation Front. Is this a salvation or an inundation? What was he trying to do? Was he trying to save or wreck his country.

This is treason. And whoever carries out such acts has a dead conscience. The West is happy that it has finally found in Algeria—which had made it suffer and in doing so had sacrificed one and half million martyrs until it gained its independence—Algerian traitors who can destroy Algeria on behalf of France. This is a new war for liberation and a new battle, but instead of waging it against France, Algeria has to wage it against heretics and traitors.

What I am saying in this great revolutionary meeting of women, in Misratah in this particular month, is that the story begins at home. [passage omitted]

We should decide that as of 1994 no heretic or stray dog should ever emerge from any family. We should make this an example to the world. Why? It is because we have a cultural, social, revolutionary, educational, and moral program that is tailored for the family and the society. Women can work outside the home. We must not force them to work or have to cross four or five blocks to get to the workplace. We need not force them to go out. [passage omitted]

The error stems from the program of the Muslim Brothers and of all the reactionary movements ruling the Arab world and the dominating reactionary culture. The error is to say that women should stay at home and that is the end of the story; no education, no training, no going out, no freedom, being divorced at will and chased from the home at will, having their children taken away at will. That is a mistake. A woman's rights are sacred. You cannot divorce a woman at will; a drunkard cannot divorce his wife. Besides, they say a woman does not have the right to divorce. She should have the right to divorce. She has the right to marriage and to divorce just like a man does. [passage omitted]

The mother is supposed to stay at home and bring up the children. She is not allowed to go to school to learn. She must not have freedom, and she must not have this or that. This is where the mistake lies. This is what caused the contradiction between the revolution and the Muslim Brotherhood who championed Islam and who lost it. [passage omitted]

The mother is the one who should decide whether to stay at home or not. If she is compelled to go out to work, she should be given the chance to be ready to do so. Otherwise, if she finds it imperative that she has to fend for herself, and she cannot do so then she becomes a victim because she has nothing; no school education or experience or a vocation. She knows absolutely nothing—not even learning how to walk down the street.

This is a reactionary program. The revolution is combating it. If this is not rectified, one should expect a number of deviations to occur such as heresy, or becoming stray dogs, or committing treason, or becoming a hireling, an enemy of the religion, enemy of the nation, the historic enemy. Such a man would never volunteer to serve the people. He would do his utmost to recruit others in the service of the enemy. [passage omitted]

What is it that makes people in a country like Libya seek to make more money? There is a psychological deviation here. Namely that everyone of us wants to own two or three or four cars for each member of the family or those who want to accumulate wealth. The truth is that there is a lot of greed. Oil made us spendthrifts. There are things which never used to be needed. We are familiar with things we never knew before; luxuries have now become necessities. This is very serious.

On the other hand—if there is an unequal distribution of the country's wealth—then we must pause. We must share the wealth equally. I do not like to see a rich and a poor citizen. If there is a rich man, I immediately assume that there is a poor man opposite him. He is rich at the expense of the poor man. [passage omitted]

This is why there should be a socialist program. It is a necessary thing—and not the doctrine of the Muslim Brotherhood and the reactionaries and the wearing of the veil. [passage omitted]

Therefore the socialist course, socialism, appear to be an inevitable necessity, not the ideology of the Muslim Brothers and reaction, of the veil, and all that garbage. These are not [words indistinct]. This veil does not bring morality with it. Morals are not for sale, but there are veils for sale. Instead of writing on it: veil for sale or clothes for women who wear the veil, it would be more appropriate to write: morals for sale, so that people can laugh at you. [passage omitted]

It is not the veil that is (?a guarantee). When a woman is educated and strong in herself and has strong morals, it does not matter, she can wear 100 veils. As long as she has strong morals and a strong personality, and she is educated and informed, nobody will laugh at her. She is free to veil her head or her legs, to wrap herself up in it or wear it as gloves. [passage omitted]

This reactionary ideology of the Muslim Brothers, which is rejected and which has achieved nothing, is in the end only a row of agents of America, a destruction and weakening of our societies, which divides its ranks and spreads the spirit of reaction. People fight over the veil. [passage omitted]

So, the socialist path is inevitable and the course of science and knowledge is inevitable. There is no escape from responsibility, because responsibility is knowledge. There will be no laxity in the destruction of the capitalist, reactionary, right-wing, rotten program. There will be no mercy for traitors, stray dogs, and heretics. There will never be any going back on strong and firm resistance with a definite resolve to triumph. We will never enable the enemy to control us again. We will review the period from October 1911 until today to learn useful lessons as from October 1993 and onwards.

This is what we will start from here, the city of Misratah, which deserves that such a march should begin here once again. [Applause] The cry for an Italian evacuation began from this combatant city and now this new cry begins from it as well. The fight continues and forward we go. [Applause]

Sudan

Vice President, Defense Minister Appointed

EA1910201993 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] The president of the republic has issued Republican Decree No. 1 of 1993, effective as of the day of its signature, appointing Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih [deputy chairman of the former Revolution Command Council] deputy to the president of the republic. The decree was signed on 19 October 1993 by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic.

The president of the republic has issued Republican Decree No. 2 of 1993, effective as of the day of its signature, appointing Lt. General Hassan Abd al-Rahman Ali defense minister [portfolio previously held by al-Bashir]. This decree was signed on 19 October 1993 by Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic.

The president of the republic has issued Republican Decree No. 4 [as heard] of 1993, effective from the day of its signature, appointing Gwang Tot (?Nhial) governor of Upper Nile State. This decree was signed on 19 October 1993 by Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic.

The president of the republic has issued Republican Decree No. 5 of 1993, effective from the day of its signature, appointing (Peter Zamandi) chairman of the Bahr al-Ghazal State Popular Salvation Committee and Edward Lual as deputy chairman of that committee. Signed on 19 October 1993 by Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic.

Decree Appointing al-Bashir President Ratified

EA1910165893 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih [deputy chairman of the former Revolution Command Council, RCC] today briefed the Transitional National Assembly on Constitutional Decree No. 8, issued by the former RCC on 16 October, providing for the appointment of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir as president of the Republic with a view to launching a discussion on the matter. [passage omitted]

The assembly ratified Constitutional Decree No. 8 appointing Lt. Gen. al-Bashir as president of the Republic after the members of the assembly had discussed the decree.

Governors Submit Resignations to al-Bashir

EA1910200993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1646 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA)—States' walis [governors] Tuesday [19 October] submitted their resignations to General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, who charged them with steering states' governments till appointment of new walis. Caretaker wali of Khartoum State said, following a meeting between Gen. al-Bashir and walis of Northern, Central, Eastern and Darfur states, that the walis congratulated Gen. al-Bashir on his appointment as president of Sudan and hailed the courageous step taken by the former Revolution Command Council members.

Military Commanders Pledge Allegiance

EA1910121593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Military zone commanders have assured Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, of their support for the revolution and its programs. This was said yesterday [18 October] when they met his excellency at his office in the General Command Headquarters in the presence of the chief of the general staff, Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The military commanders congratulated Lt. Gen. al-Bashir on his appointment as president of the Republic. They wished him every success as he takes up this great national responsibility. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir assured the military zone commanders of the revolution's interest in handing over power to the people through the frameworks defined by the political system.

Al-Bashir Meets Commanders

EA1910171493 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has reiterated that the revolution is forging ahead to effect Sudan's salvation and the promotion of democratic life and mutual consultation on firm political foundations. During a meeting with the commanders of the military zones, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] exemplified the revolution's priority of completely surrendering authority to the Sudanese people to enable them to rule themselves.

The commanders of the military zones expressed their total support and their confidence that his excellency the president would transform Sudan into a rightly guided state.

Al-Bashir Views Constitutional Developments

EA1910210193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA)—President General 'Umar al-Bashir has described the recent constitutional developments in the country as normal steps towards implementation of the political system that was agreed upon at a plenary conference on the political system. Gen. al-Bashir made the statement in an interview with the director-general of the Zimbabwean News Agency who was on a visit to Sudan to boost cooperation between the Sudan News Agency and the Zimbabwe agency.

He explained to the Zimbabwean official the [word indistinct] of the construction of the political system which is based on the people's congresses system. Gen. al-Bashir said the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] will remain till election of the national assembly, adding that the executive steps of electing the new assembly would start during next June.

He told the director of the Zimbabwean agency that peace efforts were progressing alongside the political action and affirmed to him government seriousness on implementation of federalism, which was a request by the southerners since the independence.

Gen. al-Bashir attributed the American stance toward Sudan to the divergence of views over international, Arab and Islamic issues as Sudan stood against foreign intervention in the Gulf war or in African countries. He also said that Sudan had adopted independent policies away from American or foreign influence and that the Americans believed that the Islamic orientation of Sudan Government might threaten their interests. He said Sudan was trying to clear its image which had been subjected to distortion from the Western mass media.

He described war in the south as a legacy that had not started during his government, indicating one of his government's priorities was putting an end to war in the south through dialogue. He reviewed peace efforts with the rebel movement, recounting peace talks in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Abuja as well as the recent IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative and current arrangement for holding a new round of talks between the government and the rebel movement. He said that the rebel delegations to the various rounds of talks had not been mandated to reach agreement with the government, giving as evidence the rejection of Garang to any compromise reached at the negotiations table and the consequent split of the movement.

The president stressed that Islamic shari'ah was not applied by force, contrary to Garang's allegations in this respect. He said if the government did not impose Islam on Christians in the north how could it impose it on the south. He said the government had allowed Christians to participate at all the levels of political power including the TNA, the Revolution Command Council, the Council of Ministers, the diplomatic service and the Armed Forces.

He expressed Sudan's concern with consolidating relations with African countries, particularly southern Africa, where it had opened several embassies, one of them in Zimbabwe.

New Stage of Constitutional Development Reached

EA1910141093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Four years after the national salvation revolution came into power, the country is now entering a new stage of political and constitutional development to add to the revolution's record, which is already full of achievements and sacrifices in all fields of life. The men of the National Salvation Revolution have confirmed to the whole world their disinterest in power and governing and their readiness to give and sacrifice at any place of national action. [passage omitted]

We all remember those critical days in the history of this homeland when stupid people clapped joyously every time they heard from the rebel radio that Khartoum was the target for the next invasion. At that time the rebel radio was the main one, and Omdurman national radio was a branch whose voice hardly covered the environs of the national capital. That was Sudan. It became necessary to salvage whatever could be salvaged and so the revolution came, led by young men, who first and foremost had faith in God, in their homeland, and in the dignity of their people and their great efforts. [passage omitted]

Now the country is proceeding toward a new stage of political and constitutional development guided by the principles of the national salvation revolution. Those who believe that this development means the revolution has come to its end and has disappeared behind the exigencies of constitutional legitimacy will be wrong. Those who believe that this development means retreat from the revolution's original course based on the Islamic cultural scheme will also be mistaken. Those who believe that this development means a change in Sudan's foreign policy based on dignity, independence, and the liberation of national decisions from any form of coercion or temptation will be mistaken. [passage omitted]

As the country proceeds toward a new stage, we must [word indistinct] in the march of the revolution and repeat the call to anyone who has rebelled against legitimacy and carried arms against the homeland to exercise wisdom and to contribute with his brothers to the march of construction and development. He should respond to the voice of reason and turn toward peace, for this is better for the future of the homeland and for himself.

As to those who have waited too long in the hope of returning to the seats of power to satisfy their lust for power, we tell them that the doors of the homeland are still open to welcome them. They should join the march of the revolution to make their personal contribution in the places selected for them by the people, because it is the people who are in power and no one else.

May God grant us success.

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs Ben Ali on PLO-Israeli Meeting

LD1610194493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at noon today in Carthage Palace, in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee. After the meeting, president 'Arafat gave a statement, in which he said that he was happy with these constructive meetings that constantly brought him and his excellency the president together.

He said that he had briefed the president on the details of the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Coordination Committee held recently in Cairo, and also the meetings in Taba on Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, president 'Arafat pointed out that he had briefed his excellency the president on the recent decisions issued by the Palestinian Central Council, particularly the decision to endorse the PLO-Israeli agreement, and the more important decision related to the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority, of which the Central Council had done 'Arafat the honor of electing him head, in addition to his other duties. [passage omitted]

Ben Yahya on 'Greater Openness' to Israel

TA1410111993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Report by special correspondent in Tunis Arye Gus]

[Text] Hosting the refugee committee was not a simple thing for Tunisia, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya told Yosi Beilin. The decision, which was made a year ago, was communicated to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, but this past year has not been easy. The Tunisian foreign minister pointed out that his country was the first to speak of normalization. This approach dates back to Bourguiba, who visited Jericho in 1965. Yet Tunisia does not believe in carrying out political activities independent of the Arab world.

Replying to the question of whether closer relations between Tunisia and Israel can be expected, Yosi Beilin said:

[Begin Beilin recording] I do not think we are looking at the very near future. I think there is readiness for far greater openness toward Israel, and this is reflected in the very fact of Tunisia's hosting the working teams on refugee affairs and our delegation.

My talk with the foreign minister dealt with a number of issues. He is a great believer in the gradual approach as opposed to breaking through all the barriers at once. Nevertheless, he approved the visit of Tunisian-born Israelis, for instance, and I think there are other buds of normalization, although not necessarily full diplomatic relations. [end recording]

Tunisia still links normalization with Israel-PLO relations. The greater the progress, the easier the normalization. Yet the PLO is not the only issue. Ben Yahya stressed Syria's significance to the peace process, noting that Israel should avoid creating the impression that Syria is being pushed outside. Syria is the key to normalization in the Middle East, he said.

As for the refugee committee's talks, Beilin believes the atmosphere is better than ever. There is willingness to discuss refugee rehabilitation in housing projects; so far, the discussion refers to refugees in the territories. As is known, the Palestinians are adamantly opposed to the rehabilitation of refugees in their countries of residence.

Ben Ali Receives Belgian Foreign Minister

LD1410221893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpt] This morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received, at Carthage Palace and in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya, Mr. Willy Claes, who is president of the EC Council of Ministers, Belgian deputy prime minister, and foreign minister.

Following the audience, which was also attended by the Tunisian ambassador to Brussels and the Belgian ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Willy Claes stated: The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness and dealt with the question of the Middle East and the cooperation between Tunisia and the EC.

He added that the approaches of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the EC regarding the Middle East are fully identical, and stressed the need for taking the necessary measures to realize tangible results for the Palestinian people in the near future. After noting the positive work done in Washington, where the efforts of the various donors were coordinated, he stressed the necessity for avoiding any form of bureaucracy, taking tangible steps, and realizing immediate results along with pushing forward the peace process.

He also pointed out that satisfaction with the Palestinian-Israeli and the Jordanian-Israeli agreements should not be considered the end of the road, but the starting point that necessitates an immediate move; underlining, in this respect, the identical positions of Tunisia and the EC.

On the other hand, Mr. Willy Claes noted that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received with satisfaction the EC Council of Minister's intention to give the European negotiating committee on 8 November an authorization to establish an association agreement between Tunisia and the EC. He pointed out that the association, in addition to the cooperation agreements, is considered the most important agreement, because it creates opportunities for cooperation in various fields and leads ultimately to the creation of a free trade zone.

Thus, he added, we are taking an important step in promoting an advanced Mediterranean policy that takes into consideration not only the Middle East, but also the Arab Maghreb, stressing that the Community intention is to reach the same association arrangements with Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria to open the prospects of cooperation between two representative entities; the Arab Maghreb and the European Community. [passage omitted]

New Budget, Economic Balance Outlined

LD1810223393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The features of the state budget for the new year and the economic balance were today the center of a news conference that was held at the headquarters of the State Secretariat for Information, under the supervision Finance Minister Nouri Zorgati and Mustapha Kamel Nabli, the planning and regional development minister, in the presence of Fethi Houidi, secretary of state for information.

At the beginning, Mustapha Kamel Nabli reviewed the problems of development and their scope for the year 1994, and said that this budget is considered an important point of transformation from the viewpoint of completing most of the economic reforms and applying them in the sphere of foreign trade, prices, and liberalizing the dinar.

He added that the largest part of economic reforms have been completed, and entry to the post-economic reform phase has started. The minister talked about the international atmosphere, the difficulties witnessed by the international economy as a result of the decline in growth, and the obstacles in the international trade talks. He said that all the indications are not positive, and it is necessary to deal with them with complete objectivity.

Concerning the economic balance and the recent estimates of development for 1993, the rate of growth in the agricultural sector has witnessed a drop of 7 percent, while manufactured goods have achieved a growth rate estimated at 2.7 percent, the non-foodstuff manufactured goods have achieved a growth rate estimated at 6.1 percent, and the services sector has achieved a growth rate estimated at 7 percent.

Concerning the development prospects for 1994, they have been determined at 6.1 percent of the Gross National Product.

Nouri Zorgati talked about the most important features of the state's draft general budget and said that the budget has achieved a development rate estimated at 11.4 percent. [passage omitted]

We will learn more about the other features of the state budget and the economic balance from this interview that Noureddine Hadjmahmoud had with Mustapha Kamel Nabli:

[Begin recording] [Hadjmahmoud] The 1994 draft budget has this morning been touched on. We now have Mustapha Kamel Nabli, planning and regional development minister, to define the most important features of this budget. Mr. Minister, let us attempt to define the most important features of this budget. What are its most important aspects?

[Nabli] First, this budget has three sides. The first is the overall value of the budget that falls within the general [economic] policies of the country, and the size of the budget has developed by 11.4 percent in comparison with the development of the Gross National Product at 11.6 percent. [passage omitted]

This is the first side. The other side concerns resources. The important feature of this budget is to consolidate the state's own resources, thus reducing borrowing and other things to finance the budget by means of internal or foreign borrowing. [passage omitted]

The third point or side, concerns expenditure. These expenditures also take into account the development and management requirements, and the balanced development between the management budget and the development budget which is estimated at about 9 percent for each one of them, in comparison with more than 17 percent in connection with the repayment of the debt. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

Defense Minister Aims for All-Kuwaiti Army

LD1910123293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Oct (KUNA)—In a press statement published here today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that work is under way to restructure the military sector so that it becomes 1,000 percent Kuwaiti, and that a law has been passed by the National Assembly stipulating that those of nonspecified nationality should not be allowed to continue to serve in the army.

In his statement to AL-ANBA, Shaykh 'Ali says that he is committed to his decision regarding full Kuwaitization [takwit] of the army in a very few years.

In his statement to AL-ANBA—before leaving for the French capital, Paris, yesterday—he added the he will work to encourage Kuwaitis to join the military corps on the basis of material and technical capabilities and to perform their duty toward their homeland.

Shaykh 'Ali also said that he has been working on resolving the problem of Biduns [people without citizenship] at the Ministry of Defense before the Council of Minister's decree on the issue was issued, and that implementation of steps regarding this issue had been initiated many months previously. He stressed: Kuwait will not ignore the rights of the Biduns working at the ministry.

The number of Bidun servicemen in the Kuwaiti Army is about 2,500. Their positive role was confirmed during the treacherous Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. After that time, their number fell after some of them resigned and left the country.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Committee Talks With Syria's al-Shar' Begin

JN1910155193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that peace in the region cannot be realized unless the occupied territories are returned and usurped rights restored.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Syrian-Saudi joint committee meetings in Riyadh today, the foreign minister quoted President Hafiz al-Asad's statement that peace and occupation cannot be reconciled. Al-Shar' added that Syria supports just, comprehensive, and genuine peace toward which our nation is looking with the aim of preserving its dignity, restoring its occupied territories, and realizing prosperity for its children and stability for the entire region.

Al-Shar' said Syria does not support an imaginary peace based on occupying territories and usurping rights, because such a peace will not last and will not realize security, prosperity, or stability to anyone. The foreign minister stressed Syria's and Saudi Arabia's adherence to the formula and bases of the Madrid peace conference to implement the UN Security Council resolutions that obligate Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, especially holy Jerusalem, all of Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' pointed out that the joint Syrian and Saudi positions on both the Arab and Islamic levels would not have been strengthened and raised to this high level without their close cooperation, which was wisely and sincerely established by President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The foreign minister voiced confidence that this Syrian-Saudi cooperation will be further strengthened and affirmed over the next months and years given the two countries' joint conviction in the inevitable confrontation with the accelerating regional and international challenges that will reflect positively on the interests of the two countries and the Arab nation and ensure stability for the region, if the two countries deal with them in a wise and courageous manner. He said this joint march will succeed because it is a march of a just and comprehensive peace.

Al-Shar' praised the steps taken so far in the march of bilateral cooperation and in implementing the joint committee decisions, voicing his opinion that sincere efforts will continue to promote the steps that have not been put into effect yet. The minister voiced the Syrian Government's appreciation for the Saudi side's decision, which was made on the instructions of King Fahd, to finance an electric power project in Syria, which will help promote the process of economic and social development.

For his part, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who heads the Saudi side to the joint committee, made an inaugural speech in which he stressed the profound and strong ties between Syria and the Kingdom and the two countries' commitment to principles on which their Arab and international policies are based, prompting them to confront aggression and support legitimacy. Al-Faysal expressed the hope that just, durable, and comprehensive peace will be realized on the basis of the Madrid conference. He said that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be a step on the road toward comprehensive peace, if it is followed by a serious treatment of the holy Jerusalem issue, the return of the Palestinian refugees, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and if it is coupled with real breakthroughs on other tracks, ensuring Israel's withdrawal from the entire occupied Syrian Golan and from the occupied Lebanese territory.

Al-Faysal asserted that the cordial and brotherly meetings and the continuation of the auspicious cooperation march under the sponsorship of President Hafiz al-Asad and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, requires serious and sincere work to develop and strengthen bilateral relations and promote the two countries' joint efforts to realize the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and serve the Arab nation's interests.

The two speeches came at the inauguration of the Syrian-Saudi joint committee in Riyadh this morning. The Syrian side was led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi side by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Taking part on the Syrian side were Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Ghassan al-Halabi, minister of education; and Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini, the finance minister. Taking part on the Saudi side were Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, the education minister. Senior officials, technical experts, and prominent businessmen from both sides also took part.

Foreign Ministers Address Session

LD1910204593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the fourth session of the Joint Saudi-Syrian Committee for Bilateral Cooperation started at the Conference Hall in Riyadh this morning. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, delivered a speech at the beginning of the opening session of the session's proceedings, in which he welcomed the chairman and members of the Syrian delegation. [passage omitted].

[Begin Sa'ud al-Faysal recording] The two countries have stood by the side of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace and supported the Madrid conference. Syria participated in the bilateral negotiations according to this policy.

We really hope that a just, durable, and comprehensive peace will be achieved. The agreement on the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and the Israeli Government, which was signed in Washington on 13 September, will be a step toward the achievement of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace between Arabs and Israel if it is followed by serious treatment of the essential issues such as those of holy Jerusalem, the return of Palestinian refugees, and a guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This will also be the case if it is accompanied by real detente in the other tracks of the peace negotiations, guaranteeing the full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the occupied Lebanese territories. [passage omitted] [end recording]

After that, His Excellency Faruq al-Shar' delivered an address in which he said:

[Begin al-Shar' recording] I am pleased, in my name and in the name of the Syrian delegation members, to present to your highness and to all honorable members of the Saudi delegation our abundant thanks and deep gratitude for the genuine welcome we have been given, which is characteristic of this blessed brotherly country that has always stood with right against wrong. This country united with Arabs and Muslims against the greedy and against usurpers. It supported the just causes of its nation to regain its usurped legitimate rights and what was plundered from its occupied land, regardless of the affiliation of that usurper or the identity of that occupier.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Syria stood against the occupation of sisterly Kuwait. They abided by UN resolutions related to the Gulf war. We stand now, together, in solidarity with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we condemn what its Muslim people have faced from flagrant injustice, the usurpation of their lands, and the violation of their rights.

Syria and the Kingdom adhere to the formula and rules of the Madrid peace conference and work together to implement Security Council resolutions that commit Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, particularly from holy Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and south Lebanon, in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. We are not alone in that. Our Arab and Islamic nations, the international community, are all standing with us, because we are standing on the side of right, of international legitimacy, and UN resolutions.

Your Royal Highness, O brothers, we are confident that the brothers in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are aware of the extent of the great concern and anxiety of the Syrian leadership in relation to bolstering and developing the process of bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all fields, including revitalizing meetings between businessmen to discover new joint cooperation and investment opportunities.

While we highly appreciate the steps achieved in the cooperation process between our two countries and the implementation of decisions made by our joint committees, we hope to continue our sincere efforts to complete the steps which have not yet been implemented. In this context, we express our appreciation to the decision by the Saudi side during this session, announcing directives by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, concerning the financing of an important electricity project in Syria. This is something that will meet pressing needs in our country and will push forward our economic and social development. [end recording]

After that, the opening meeting of the session's proceedings ended, and the committee held a meeting behind closed doors.

Joint Press Release Issued

LD1910223593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] At the end of the meetings of the fourth session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Syria, the following press release was issued:

In implementation of the instructions of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the agreement on the formation of a joint committee on bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries signed in Damascus on 5 February 1991, and in bolstering ties of friendship, brotherhood, and deep historical bonds between the two countries, the joint committee for bilateral cooperation held its fourth session in Riyadh on 19 and 20 October.

The Saudi side was led by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, with the participation of Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of religious trusts.

The Syrian side was headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar', with the participation of Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Minister of Finance Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Muhanyani; and Minister of Education Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi.

Senior officials from ministries, bodies, and government enterprises from the two brotherly countries also took part in the meetings, as did representatives from chambers of commerce from both countries.

The joint committee reviewed political relations between the two brotherly countries. It expressed its satisfaction over the degree of cooperation, coordination, and consultation between them in the political field and in all other areas. The committee recommends an intensification of efforts to bolster these relations in order to deepen cooperation in all bilateral, Arab, and international aspects, as well as with regard to other issues of common interest.

The two sides reviewed the Washington peace talks and the developments on all tracks. Their viewpoints were in agreement that a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict would be realized with a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, foremost among which are holy Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon, on the basis of the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as the principle of returning Arab land in exchange for peace and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides expressed concern over the procrastination by the Iraqi regime over implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly those pertaining to the demarcation of the international borders between Iraq and Kuwait, the release of the prisoners and detainees, and the alleviation of the suffering besetting the Iraqi people. They stressed the need for the full implementation of all the ad hoc Security Council resolutions.

They reviewed the development of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and stressed their condemnation of the policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing practiced by the Serbs and Croats. They expressed their support for the just demands of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and they reiterated the call by the international community for measures to be taken that would provide collective protection for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, enable its government to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, and lift the arms embargo imposed on it.

The joint committee expressed its satisfaction at the growth of relations of economic and trade cooperation between the two fraternal countries within the framework of the work of the Saudi-Syrian committee for bilateral cooperation. It stressed the importance of taking more measures likely to deepen and strengthen these relations in light of the provisions of the 1972 trade and economic agreement. In this context, the joint committee urged economic promoters in the two fraternal countries to increase cooperation and direct contacts between them, and encouraged them to import a number of goods and raw materials produced in Saudi Arabia and needed by the industrial sector in Syria, and also to continue developing Syrian exports to the Saudi market.

The joint committee expressed its satisfaction at the development cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries, and welcomed the announcement by the Saudi Development Fund of its readiness to participate in financing an electricity-generating project in Syria. [passage omitted]

In the sphere of transportation and telecommunications, the joint committee reviewed aspects of the cooperation existing between the two countries in the field of transport in its different forms, in order to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers, and to improve the efficiency of the public transport utilities for achieving the common interest of the two sides. [passage omitted]

The joint committee also welcomed the agreement to hold the next meeting of officials of their national carriers in Damascus in December and to look into increasing the number of flights and capacity offered by each of them. It praised the agreement reached in the previous meeting in Damascus that increased the number of flights and capacity offered between the the two brotherly countries.

The joint committee expressed its satisfaction at the steps agreed upon to bolster and develop cooperation in the field of communication, especially the setting up of an express mail agreement by the two countries' telegraph administrations.

It welcomed the establishment of the new international exchange, which became operational on 2 April 1993, and the placing of 48 additional telephone circuits for actual service between the two countries to facilitate communication between them.

The deliberations of the joint committee took place in an atmosphere of honesty, cooperation, and confidence, which reflects the depth of the brotherly ties between the two countries. The two sides agreed to hold the next joint committee session in Damascus in June 1994.

Joint Session Concludes

LD1910225693 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The joint Saudi-Syrian committee for bilateral cooperation concluded the proceedings of its fourth session in Riyadh this evening. The session was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, who headed the Saudi delegation, and His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign affairs minister, who led the Syrian side.

In the final meeting that the committee held this evening, a cultural and information cooperation agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic was finally signed. The accord was signed by His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah al-Khuwaytir, minister of education, for the Kingdom, and His Excellency Education Minister Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi for the Syrian side. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Views Mitterrand Visit

LD1810201493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 18 Oct SPA—Under the chairmanship of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 18 October 1993, held its weekly meeting at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that the custodian of the two holy mosques briefed the council on the outcome of the talks that he, may God support him, had with His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, during the short visit that he paid to the Kingdom while stopping at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah last Friday [15 October].

The beloved king pointed out to the council that the talks concentrated on the means of strengthening and consolidating the bilateral relations existing between the two friendly countries, and reviewed the efforts exerted for the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle Eastern region, in accordance with United Nations' Resolution Nos. 242, 338, and 425, in addition to issues of common interest.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, praised his excellency the French president's deep and comprehensive understanding of the situation in the region, and the nature of the time in which it was living. [passage omitted]

Authorities Opening Up To Shiite Opposition

NC2010132093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 13 Oct 93 pp 1, 16

[AL-DIYAR "exclusive"]

[Excerpt] AL-DIYAR has learned from informed sources interested in regional affairs that early this month a delegation from the Islamic Shiite opposition in Saudi Arabia visited Riyadh. The delegation was made up of six key leaders from what used to be called the "Islamic Revolution Organization in the Arabian Peninsula" [munazzamat al-thawrah al-islamiyah fi al-jazirah al-'arabiyah], which changed its name at its recent conference. Assembled from several European, American, and Middle Eastern cities, they headed for Riyadh to meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. On the day after they arrived, they were surprised by an invitation to meet with Kind Fahd. The king held a lengthy meeting with them in a frank and amicable atmosphere. During the meeting, they reviewed present and future national tasks and what al-Mintaqah al-Sharqiyah [Shiite-dominated Eastern region] could contribute at this critical juncture of its history. The delegation submitted some requests to the king, who approved them. The following were among their requests:

1. The return of all those exiled abroad after they are supplied with valid passports, even if they do not have any documents.

2. Guarantees that they will not be pursued or questioned in the Kingdom.

3. The return of all Shiite civil servants dismissed from public posts, particularly from Aramco [Arab-American Oil Company], and compensation for all the losses they incurred during their absence from work.

4. Licenses to build mosques to practice the Shiite rites freely.

It should be noted that the Kingdom has released all political detainees who are members of this organization. The organization made it a condition that the other Shiite detainees, particularly from the Saudi Hizballah, be released, too. The organization's request, along with its condition, was met.

Later on, King Fahd summoned Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd, governor of al-Mintaqah al-Sharqiyah, as well as a number of senior officials in the Interior Ministry and other competent security agencies, for a meeting with the delegation. During the meeting, the king ordered them to follow up the implementation of the delegation's requests. He asked the opposition delegation to inform him personally of any problems that obstruct the implementation.

The delegates later visited al-Mintaqah al-Sharqiyah. At the airport, they were accorded a massive welcome in which popular figures, ulema, traders, social dignitaries, and Sunni figures in the area took part. More than 20 of the organization's members have returned, one after the other, to the Kingdom in the last month. They were not pursued; they were allowed to obtain new passports, and their travel ban was lifted.

It is worth noting that the dialogue among the organization, the Saudi officials, and some other middlemen began more than a year ago. The Human Rights Group [not further specified] played a role in this matter, to which the Kingdom responded. Some political prisoners were released, and the international Human Rights Organization was promised that it would be allowed to visit prisons in the Kingdom and meet political detainees as a prelude to their release, but the dialogue has been intensified and its pace has been increased, thus going beyond the role of the Human Rights Organization. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Afghan President Arrives, To Meet Shaykh Zayid

LD1910175893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his entourage arrived at Abu Dhabi International Airport at around 1200 local time. [passage omitted]

According to another report, the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan attended a reception that was held in his honor at [words indistinct]. Also present were high-ranking officials and officers of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and ambassadors and political representatives of foreign countries in Abu Dhabi.

Official talks between esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, are due to begin shortly.

Talks Held With Shaykh Zayid

JN1910115893 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A round of official talks was held at the Presidential Office at noon today between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the state, and His Excellency Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of the State of Afghanistan. [passage omitted] Following the expanded meeting, the two presidents held a closed meeting. Meanwhile, the two delegations held a meeting cochaired by His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister, and His Excellency Mowlawi Arslan Rahmani, the Afghan deputy prime minister and Hajj and awqaf minister. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Concludes 3-Day Visit

JN2010140193 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Republic of Afghan, left the country for Afghanistan following a three-day official visit at the end of a tour of some regional states. His Highness Shaykh Dr. Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Sharjah, led those who saw the Afghan president off at al-Shariqah International Airport. [passage omitted]

62 Iranian, Afghan Illegal Immigrants Seized

NC2010134793 Paris AFP in English 0951 GMT 20 OCT 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 20 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) Coast Guard have seized 62 Iranians and Afghans for entering the country illegally, AL-KHALIJ newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It said 37 Iranians and Afghans were seized in the northern town of Dibba al-Husn close to the Omani border after they sneaked in by sea.

Another 25 Iranians were captured Monday night as they tried to leave Dubayy by sea after illegally entering the Emirate, police said.

Nearly 1,000 people, mostly Asians, were reported seized this year as they tried to enter the oil-rich Gulf country in search for jobs.

President Receives Vietnamese Official

JN1710171693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a verbal message from the Vietnamese president, Le Duc Anh, in which an invitation was extended to his highness to visit Vietnam.

Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister, also received an invitation from Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh to visit Vietnam. Shaykh Sultan promised to visit Vietnam, but the date of the visit will be decided later.

The message and the invitation were conveyed by Vietnamese deputy prime minister today.

The official talks between the UAE and Vietnam were held in Abu Dhabi today led by Shaykh Sultan and Nguyen Khanh.

Following the talks, Shaykh Sultan stated that views were exchanged on developments in eastern Asia and economic, trade, investment, agricultural, cultural, and educational bilateral relations. The Vietnamese side presented a draft agreement on economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries. He added that the Vietnamese side also briefed the UAE side on a number of development projects in its country due to the investments introduced recently by the Vietnamese Government.

Subcommittees were formed and will meet tomorrow with UAE officials to discuss a number of issues of mutual interest.

Yemen

Salih Addresses Military Commanders

JN1910171293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Speech by Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at a reception for the interior and defense ministers, the Army chief of staff, and senior Armed Forces and security commanders in Sanaa on 18 October—recorded]

[Text] In my own name and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council, it pleases me to [words indistinct] the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior on this occasion, the occasion of the election of the Presidential Council. Thank you all for these noble and fraternal sentiments. We within the leadership hope that we will continue to enjoy the trust of our colleagues and comrades in arms within all echelons of the Armed Forces and the Security Department. We will turn over a new leaf in the effort to build a modern state, the state in which the rule of law and order will prevail, the state of a new constitutional legitimacy.

We within the leadership will accord this institution, i.e., these two national institutions, all possible care and affection. We will leave behind us the negative aspects of the previous phase. The negative developments recently witnessed were not deliberate. Given the prevailing objective circumstances, it was only natural for these negative developments to happen. This was expected, since these developments resulted from moving from the status of two separate states to a new Yemeni state, namely, the Republic of Yemen, in which, on 22 May 1990, the international character of both the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was dissolved.

God be praised, with the support of these two national institutions, and thanks to the militant spirit of all honorable men, the leadership managed to realize this national dream. Had it not been for the support extended by this national institution within the Armed Forces and the Security Department, this great accomplishment scored on 22 May would not have materialized.

We commend and appreciate all the efforts made by officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces and the Security Department on 27 April 1993, when the people's masses headed for polling stations to exercise their political rights in full. Right now, and in the aftermath of the election of the new Presidential Council, we have new missions to accomplish. We must all make concerted efforts, more than ever before, to build this institution, to protect the homeland's sovereignty, and to safeguard constitutional legitimacy. It is my great hope that the brothers within the Armed Forces and the Security Department will safeguard this great historic accomplishment scored on 22 May. It is also my hope that you will not be distracted by or preoccupied with partisan competition within the homeland, which is a natural phenomenon. Given the fact that we have chosen to espouse political pluralism and the democratic approach, political parties are bound to emerge, along with [words indistinct] competition [words indistinct]. However, we are extremely concerned and hope that this institution will remain completely detached from any political tension, or disputes among political parties. This institution must safeguard unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

Brother colleagues, [words indistinct] previous conflicts, which have become a thing of the past. I am here referring to the events that took place in August (?1968), and the conflicts witnessed on 13 January [1986] in the southern part of the homeland, not to mention conflicts between the two parts of the homeland, when the homeland was ruptured. In these conflicts, you were the scapegoat. So, let us learn the lessons of the past. [Words indistinct] although some of our resources are scarce. [words indistinct], correcting imbalances, wherever they are, regardless of whether they are in the economic, social, security, or military fields. [Words indistinct] except through your sincere and concerted efforts [words indistinct] within our military establishment and within political organizations.

You might be following foreign media, their evil, rancor, and malice toward unity, democracy, and the Republic of Yemen. [Words indistinct] national ranks within the close-knit homeland. [Words indistinct] will be crushed against the rock of political awareness, and also against the rock of the firm will of all combatants within the Armed Forces and the Security Department.

I would like to thank you once again. I do highly appreciate your congratulations for the new leadership. We hope that we, within the Presidential Council, will continue to enjoy the trust of our troops and combatant colleagues within the Armed Forces and the Security

Department. We will spare no effort to rebuild them on national and proper grounds.

Thank you. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

France's Mitterrand, Salih Hold News Conference

JN1910130593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council, and French President Francois Mitterrand held a news conference this afternoon at the Presidential Palace. The conference was attended by Yemeni and French media representatives, and Arab and foreign newspaper and news agency correspondents.

At the conference, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that the French president's visit to our country will greatly boost relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. He said the talks he and Yemeni officials held with President Mitterrand and his delegation were positive regarding bilateral cooperation. This will be in the mutual interest of the two friendly peoples, he said.

The two presidents also answered questions on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Details of the news conference will be carried in later newscasts.

Mitterrand Concludes Visit

JN1910173393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency French President Fracois Mitterrand and his delegation left Sanaa at 1920 today following an official two-day visit to our country, during which he held official talks with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman.

The talks dealt with the ties of [word indistinct] and cooperation between the two countries and means of improving them to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples. The talks also dealt with regional and international issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

House Speaker Invited To Visit Iraq

JN1810145493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, House of Representatives speaker, today received brother Dr. Hasib al-'Ubaydi, member of the Iraqi National Assembly, who arrived in Sanaa this morning. Dr. al-'Ubaydi conveyed to al-Ahmar a letter from Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly. The letter concerns parliamentary ties between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed ties between the two fraternal countries in the parliamentary field and the means to strengthen them. They also discussed the Iraqi people's suffering caused by the economic embargo.

The Iraqi envoy also conveyed to the House of Representatives speaker greetings from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, as well as the greetings of the Iraqi National Assembly's speaker and members.

The Iraqi envoy conveyed an invitation to the House speaker from brother Sa'di Mahdi Salih to visit Iraq. The House speaker accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad al-Haj Salihi, House of Representatives member, and Dr. Muhsin Khalil, Iraqi ambassador to our country.

Five Working Sessions Held With Iranians

JN1910211993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Five working sessions have been held at the Foreign Ministry between the Iraqi side headed by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, senior Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Iranian delegation headed by Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian deputy foreign minister.

The five sessions of talks focused on preparing for a political dialogue between the two countries to solve outstanding problems.

The Iraqi side focused on priorities and confidence-building measures, foremost of which is the need to release Iraqi POW's held in Iran.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received Mohammad Javad Zarif and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, senior Foreign Ministry under secretary, the heads of the [Foreign Ministry's] Legal and Neighboring Countries Departments, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran.

Saddam Receives Cable From Libya's GPC

JN1910152193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1404 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] of Libya in which they expressed their appreciation for Iraq's heroic steadfastness in the face of the criminal American aggression and the obdurate pressures the United States is exercising against Iraq under the UN umbrella.

Following is the text of the cable:

Brother President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq:

An Arab greeting,

The members of the Secretariat of the GPC, who held a meeting in Tripoli from 9 to 10 October 1993 to discuss the Arab political situation in light of international changes, seize this opportunity to send to you and to the great Iraqi people their greetings and their appreciation for the heroic Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the criminal-U.S.-international aggression and the obdurate pressures the United States is exercising against you and the military power of our Iraqi Arab people under the UN umbrella.

The GPC and its parties, bodies, and professional unions are fully aware of the ugly crime, which is being committed against our Arab homeland in Iraq and our steadfast people in it.

We assure you that we will continue to support our people in Iraq in their struggle and steadfastness, and we are exerting every effort to expose the criminal goals behind that aggression and to confront it with all means.

The conferees have decided to support the Iraqi people's heroic steadfastness. We are always preoccupied with the situation in Iraq, and we always urge the masses of the Arab nation to extend all sorts of material and political assistance to our people in Iraq to protect Iraq's unity; to join the efforts of Iraq, which is a basic power in the Arab nation's battle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries; and to liberate all the occupied territories.

We salute you and your steadfastness and that of the Iraqi people. On this occasion, we assert that the Arab liberation movement rejects the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and we adhere to the right of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation to liberate all Palestinian soil and to work seriously for the Arab nation in order to achieve Arab unity by creating a new dynamism and unifying the visions, the action, and the program of the popular pan-Arab movement on the path of liberation, unity, and progress.

Long live the builder of civilization and the maker of glory.

Long live the Arab Nationalist movement struggling against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries. Victory is for the Arab nation.

[Signed] The emergency pan-Arab meeting of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress

'New Framework' for Syria Talks Reportedly Sought

NC1910131393 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 19 Oct 93

[By Jean-Luc Renaudie]

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 19 (AFP)—Israel will ask the United States to work out a new framework for negotiations with Syria after two years of getting nowhere, a senior official in the prime minister's office told AFP Tuesday [19 October].

The request will be presented to State Department peace coordinator Dennis Ross when he arrives in Jerusalem on Wednesday as part of a regional swing.

"We have to find other ways of talking to Syria, whether it be secret or through the intermediary of the United States," said the official, who refused to be named.

The bilateral negotiations between Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Syria, which began in Madrid in October 1991, have led to an impasse, and the PLO autonomy deal was negotiated secretly.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has called for direct, separate, rather than bilateral, talks. "The Madrid framework in which all the delegations gather at the same place for a limited time cannot produce results and has led to no agreement between Israel and the Arabs," Rabin pointed out on Sunday.

"There's no point resuming the Washington negotiations because Syria wants a blank cheque from Israel, which is out of the question," the senior official said.

Damascus demands a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, annexed in 1981, as a condition for a peace agreement. But Israel refuses to outline the extent of any withdrawal until Syria declares readiness for total peace with open border and diplomatic ties in exchange.

Ross is shuttling round the Middle East looking for agreement on a date to start a 12th round of bilateral talks.

But Uri Savir, the director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, told state radio: "We are waiting to find out what the Americans want to do about the character of the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has dismissed Syrian peace proposals as "empty".

"Their position is illogical. The Syrians tell us: 'Give back the Golan heights and we'll talks afterwards.' When they are asked about the substance of that peace one finds that it is an empty peace, devoid of content," he said.

Despite such tough talking, Israel has announced readiness to continue the bilateral talks in Washington.

The 11th round closed on September 14, a day after the signing of the PLO autonomy deal, when Israel and Jordan signed an agreement on an agenda to pursue their talks.

'No Breakthrough' Expected During Ross Visit

TA1810130393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Oct 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Moti Bassok and Dan Avidan]

[Excerpts] Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, will be coming to Israel in two days as part of his special Middle East shuttle mission. Tomorrow, Ross will meet for the first time with a senior PLO team in Tunis. Yesterday Washington notified Jerusalem that Warren Christopher's Middle East tour at the beginning of November is almost certain. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem regards the visit a routine working tour which does not entail any revolutionary moves or breakthrough, not even on the Syrian track. The prime minister and the foreign minister have recently made it publicly clear that Israel does not see a need in advancing on the Syrian track at this time because it is busy with the Palestinian track.

Official Israeli sources, including the head of the Israeli delegation for talks with the Syrians, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, have stated that now, Israel has additional demands of Syria which accompany its basic demand that Syria clarify its view of the nature of peace. Some of the demands speak of Syria's agreement to security arrangements and to stages of withdrawal from the Golan Heights; and of the need for a change in the anti-Israel sentiment of the Syrian society.

Foreign Minister Peres has recently remarked that even Egypt agrees that the Syrian demand for symmetry in security arrangements between it and Israel after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from the Golan Heights is irrational.

A political source in Jerusalem said last night that ever since Secretary of State Christopher recently visited Damascus, the United States feels it has an obligation to Syria to work on the Israeli-Syrian track. The United States also fears the Syrian ability to harm the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Among other things, Ross is coming here to update himself on, and to examine whether the United States can be incorporated in, the contacts between Israel and the PLO. [passage omitted]

According to the political source, while in Amman and Jerusalem, Ross will examine ways to implement the decision to establish a joint Jordanian-Israeli economic committee—made on 1 October when Peres met with Crown Prince Hasan and President Clinton.

Ross will also inquire about Jordan's plans regarding the coming round of talks in Washington at the end of

November. A senior political source in Jerusalem said yesterday that progress on the Jordanian track will only be possible after the 8 November Jordanian elections. According to him, the Israeli-Jordanian agreement on almost all the issues has been "cooked" in the bilateral negotiations in Washington. All the problems regarding issues of security, borders, economy, and water can be worked out. The main problem, that of the refugees and the uprooted, has remained unsolved, and will be solved in a broader frame that will include the Palestinians as well. [passage omitted]

Merit of 'Pushing al-Asad Aside' Questioned

TA1810161493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 93 p 2

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "Provoking al-Asad Will Only Complicate the Situation"]

[Text] Past experience shows that provoking al-Asad has never done any good. On the contrary, it has only complicated things.

There are plenty of examples. Remarks such as "Watch out, al-Asad; Yanush [retired Army Major General Ben-Gal] is waiting for you!"—which Menahem Begin hurled at the Syrian president—ended in a military confrontation and did nothing to promote the solution of the problems in the north.

And yet Rabin and Peres have recently been firing salvos of declarations aimed at "cutting al-Asad down to size" and pushing him to the sidelines of the regional political negotiations: Rabin said Israel will not operate under Syrian threats, while Peres added that al-Asad is incapable of disrupting the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians.

Israel is aspiring toward public diplomacy consisting of contacts between the Jerusalem and Damascus decision-makers. Jerusalem is hoping for an arrangement according to which the Golan withdrawal will be spaced over a period of at least five years. As for security arrangements, Israel is hoping that the United States will guarantee the agreement and deploy troops in the Golan Heights, as it did in the Sinai.

Personal motivation is no doubt another factor behind Rabin and Peres' attitude. For years, they put up with repeated rejections of their appeals for a secret dialogue with the Syrian ruler. Al-Asad's image has been that of the man who holds the possibilities for a solution of the Middle East problems in his hand—until the agreement with the Palestinians practically cut the ground out from under him.

Yet, this is no mere game of human passions. Rabin and Peres truly believe their efforts should now focus on the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians. According to this approach, Israeli society must be allowed time to digest the implications of the agreement with the PLO.

And the main point: An attempt has been made to defer the need for difficult decisions regarding the arrangement with Syria in order to prevent the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza from banding together with those in the Golan Heights.

There is no guarantee that pushing al-Asad aside will yield the desired results. Here is another plausible scenario: The United States will increase its involvement in the Middle East negotiations by pressuring Rabin and Peres to make Syria-related decisions they have been trying to avoid for the present.

Dennis Ross, the coordinator of the administration's activities in the political negotiations, will try to promote an Israeli-Syrian declaration of principles. Ross will hint to al-Asad that President Clinton will consent to meet with him in Europe if he voices his readiness to hold a public meeting with Rabin late this year.

One thing should be remembered: Israel will eventually be forced to pay the price by making an unequivocal, public declaration of readiness to withdraw from the Golan, even if the withdrawal is gradual and spaced out over a period of time.

Rabin: Keeping Security in Jordan Valley 'Vital'

TA2010074493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel cannot return to the pre-1967 borders. It is vital for state security to remain in the Jordan Valley, he said. But the prime minister added that there is no chance of reaching a peace agreement without compromises on both sides. On Syria, he said Damascus is still demanding total withdrawal but has not yet said it is prepared to give what Israel views as full peace. The prime minister made the remarks this morning to a Jewish delegation from southern California.

Boundaries of Jericho Autonomous Area Disputed

TA1810153493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians demand control of 345 square km in the Jericho area.

This area is 14 times larger than the area Israel wants to transfer to the PLO autonomy in Jericho. The Palestinian demand, based on a 1935 Public Words Division map dating back to the British mandate, will be discussed by the joint Israeli-PLO security committee in Taba on Wednesday [20 October].

This map demarcates the boundaries of the Jericho area and includes a few Israeli settlements which the Palestinians are prepared to leave within the Jericho autonomous area.

The Palestinians also believe that the main problem would be the settlement of Na'ama which cannot be left outside the boundaries of the autonomous area and which would have to be included either as an enclave, or as the Palestinians demand, be evacuated.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has obtained a copy of the maps the Palestinians will present on Wednesday in Taba. In addition to the map of Jericho, the Palestinians will present a map dating back to the times of the British mandate and another map on a scale of 1:10,000 which shows the exact location of Israeli settlements and presettlements manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers, as well as Arab towns and water sources.

According to the Palestinian demand, the Jericho autonomous area would stretch from the settlement of Netiv Hagdud north of Jericho to the Almog junction on the Jerusalem-Jericho highway in the south. In the west, the area demanded by the Palestinians would stretch from Mitzpe Yeriho through 'Ayn al-Fawwar and Wadi al-Qilt, all the way to the Alon Road.

According to the Palestinian plan, four crossing points would be established on the boundaries of the autonomous area: in the south, in the north, by the Rimonim Road in the west, and near Kibbutz Qalya.

Khalil Tufakji, a member of the joint security committee and a geographer by profession, confirmed to YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the Palestinian delegation has prepared some maps in anticipation of the talks on Wednesday. "We have drawn all the necessary maps and charts. We will be presenting several maps in order to determine the boundaries of the Jericho autonomous area: a map dating to the time of the British mandate, Jordanian maps, Israeli maps, and maps prepared especially for this debate," he said.

Tufakji confirmed that the negotiations will be based on a British map dating back to 1935 that includes an area of 345 square km defined as the Jericho District (an area similar in size to the area between Tel Aviv and Netanya, from the Mediterranean Sea to the old Tel Aviv-Haifa highway).

"What is most important for us are the water sources in the Jericho area: Al-'Awja', 'Ayn al-Fawwar, and 'Ayn al-Duyuk. We will insist that these water sources be under our control," he said.

In contrast, Israel wants the boundaries of the Jericho autonomous area to be those of Jericho's municipal jurisdiction, which amount to 25 square km only. Israel plans to pave road no. 90 to bypass Jericho from the east. Israeli sources emphasized that, in any event, Israel would retain control of the Jordan River bridges and a security zone would separate the Jericho autonomous area from the Jordan River.

The Palestinians realize that Israel would continue to retain a security strip along the Jordan River as well as control over the Allenby Bridge, as stipulated in the agreement of principles.

According to the maps the Palestinians intend to present in the negotiations, the area they want in Jericho would include a few Jewish settlements: Netiv Hagdud and Na'aran in the north; Yitav, which was recently evacuated by its residents who moved to Na'ama, also located in the area sought by the Palestinians; Vered Yeriho, Mitzpe Yeriho, and Bet Ha'arava. The area would also include three presettlements: Elisha', Mul Nevo, and Tzori.

According to the Palestinian delegates, the presettlements do not pose a problem because they are military camps rather than permanent settlements. [passage omitted]

[A report by Yo'av Kaspi on page 4 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 18 October quotes a high-level military source as saying that "Israel will demand to expand the area that would remain under its control in the Gaza Strip.

["This would be done through a significant enlargement of the Qatif Bloc area. According to the maps drawn by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in anticipation of the talks in Taba on Wednesday, the area would include a large part of currently uninhabited land in the Gaza Strip.

["The source said the IDF would surround the enlarged Qatif Bloc area with an electronic fence similar to the one in the northern border and the Jordan Valley. He noted that the area the IDF wants to retain under its control is similar in size to that of any big city rather than the area of a few small settlements. He added that the Palestinian side is not very likely to accept this demand."

[Later on in the report, the source is quoted as telling the paper that Israel has "no intention whatsoever to hand over to the PLO control over any Jewish settlements or military camps in the Jericho area.

["The source noted that Israel would even like to retain control of Palestinian refugee camps adjacent to Jericho and is only prepared to hand the town of Jericho over to Palestinian rule."]

Proposals for Gaza, Jericho Borders Detailed

TA1910124193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 19 October carries a report on pages 1 and 15 outlining the Israeli proposal for the Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip. The text is illustrated by a map of the area showing Israeli "enclaves" colored in yellow. The report states: "IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Gaza Strip Civil Administration officials have completed drawing a map outlining Palestinian autonomy in the Strip, which Israel will propose.

"Israel has failed to come up with a workable solution on two points only. The Israeli provinces in the Strip are defined as two blocs constituting approximately 10 percent, or 35,000 dunam, of the Strip's area.

"The smaller northern bloc includes the Netiv Ha'asara and Nisanit settlements in the vicinity of the Erez roadblock in northern Gaza Strip. The larger bloc lies west of Khan Yunus in southern Gaza Strip. The demarcation line then turns southward, west of the main Strip road, bypassing Khan Yunus on the west and going back eastward up to the Khan Yunus-Rafah road, and then again bending westward in the direction of Rafiah Yam and the international border with Egypt.

"Two Israeli settlements are still outside these two areas: Netzarim southwest of Gaza and Morag east of Rafiah Yam. While the possibility of creating an enclave connecting the area to Israeli territory in the south is being considered for Morag, no workable solution has been found for Netzarim, an isolated settlement between Gaza city and refugee camps south of it."

Writing on the front page of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 October, Eytan Rabin, Yosi Torpstein, Gay Bekhor, and 'Aqiva Eldar report: "Refugee camps situated near the city of Jericho will remain inside the Palestinian self-rule boundaries; a proposal to this effect is included in the border demarcation proposal which the Israeli delegation will submit to PLO representatives in Taba on 20 October." The report goes on: "According to the West Bank Civil Administration's proposal, slated for debate in Taba tomorrow, the refugee camps of 'Aqabat Jabr, 'Ayn al-Sultan, and al-Nuway'imah—inhabited by 4,800 refugees—will be included in the self-administration's municipal boundaries. An Army source has said that disagreements on the boundaries of Jericho are expected to crop up at tomorrow's debates, but the Israeli proposal represents "a fair compromise."

IDF Redeployment Plan in Gaza Includes Fence, Towers

TA2010091093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has worked out a redeployment plan for the Gaza Strip in preparation for its withdrawal from the Arab inhabited areas of the strip. Under the plan, prepared by the Southern Command and the Logistics Branch—and which HA'ARETZ has acquired—the IDF will start to erect a 61 km fence around the Gaza Strip in November.

The actual building of the fence, while the responsibility of the IDF, will be done by private contractors, who will compete for the project in a special tender. After the fence is completed, six or seven gates will be built, and entering or exiting the strip will be permitted only through these gates.

For security reasons, soldiers and settlers will apparently cross through different gates than those used by Palestinians. Under the plan, the Erez and Nahal 'Oz checkpoints will be the two chief crossings for Gazans. Additional crossings will be set up near Kissufim on the Green Line in the Western Negev opposite the settlement of Netzarim, and apparently also in Kfar Darom.

At the same time, the IDF will build a security fence around the Qatif Bloc settlements in the center of the Gaza Strip. It has still not been decided how to defend the relatively isolated settlements in the northern bloc—Kfar Darom and Netzarim. The IDF is working on a plan to pave special approach roads from the Green Line to the two settlements with the aim of setting up corridors to them. [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 October, on pages 1 and 2 in a report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef, adds: "Gen. Matan Vilna'i yesterday ordered the paving of two new roads to link Kfar Darom, which is relatively isolated, to the other Jewish settlements in the strip."]

A different problem the plan deals with is the crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The IDF will insist on continuing to control the Rafah checkpoint used for crossing from the strip into Egypt in order to prevent the self-government from controlling the international crossing, just as Israel adamantly opposes Palestinian control of the Jordan River bridges.

Sources in the Southern Command told HA'ARETZ yesterday that the new plan permits movement of soldiers and settlers outside the Arab population centers. They said that the corridor which will link Kfar Darom and the Green Line will enable most of the inhabitants of the Qatif Bloc to move freely and safely without friction with the Palestinians.

As part of its redeployment, the IDF will build towers and observation posts along the line to which the forces will withdraw. But, the plan also contains a role for the Palestinian police in maintaining security in the region within the areas to be handed over to the self-rule.

According to military sources, the IDF will keep control of routine security along the Green Line and around the enclave of settlements. The IDF will maintain intensive patrols on both sides of the Green Line in order to prevent infiltrations into Israel. The Palestinian police will not have any authority to supervise the crossings into Israel.

Major General Hagay Shalom, commander of the Logistics Branch, is due to tour the Gaza Strip soon to study the various aspects of the withdrawal of IDF forces from the Palestinian population centers and the redeployment in the Qatif Bloc.

Gen. Shalom will also study the economic aspects of the building of the towers and the fencing work. The IDF's evacuation and redeployment will cost 650 million shekels. The IDF has still not asked the Treasury for a supplementary or special budget to cover the withdrawal costs from Gaza and Jericho.

Ben-Eli'ezer Addresses Jewish, Arab Lobbies in U.S.

TA1910130593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 93 p 2

[Report from Washington by Drora Perl]

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said yesterday in Washington that Israel wishes to expand the circle of Arab countries with which it maintains ties.

In a first of its kind address before representatives of the Jewish and the Arab lobbies in the United States, the minister said: "Israel has conveyed several messages to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, inviting him to come and visit Jerusalem, and it is ready to maintain ties with Libya, too."

He further noted that "it is no secret that we occasionally meet with Crown Prince Hasan and King Husayn, and we fail to understand, therefore, why Jordan has not signed a full peace agreement with us as yet."

According to Ben-Eli'ezer, the most vital and pressing issue is the problem of refugee camps and the very difficult conditions in the Gaza Strip. Fifty percent of the population in Gaza strip live in camps. "Gaza should be completely torn down and rebuilt," he said. Yet he stressed again that this decision was up to the Palestinians. "We will be prepared to extend any necessary assistance," the minister said.

In reply to a question about the Rabin government's policy regarding settlements, Ben-Eli'ezer said: "We have frozen everything. Of the 14,000 housing units planned by the Likud government, we approved the completion of 7,000 apartments which were nearly complete. However, 4,000 of these completed units are still uninhabited, and you can all draw your own conclusions."

He stressed, however, that it is the government's position that the existence, welfare, and security of settlers and settlements must be guaranteed.

The head of the Institute for Arab Studies, Jim Zugbi, called on the Arabs to announce that they were annulling the boycott of Israel. "Three years ago, we said the boycott would be called off as soon as settlement activities are discontinued. Now that it has happened, it is time the Arabs responded in kind," he said.

Head of the Arab American lobby, Khalil Jahshan, and lobby member George Salim said, however, that they did not see room for boycott cancellation at this stage. Representatives of dozens of Jewish and Arab U.S. organizations, who attended the event, were for the first time convening in a joint forum.

Details Plans for E. Jerusalem

TA2010060193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer plans to build 12,900 dwellings in East Jerusalem soon, he told Israeli journalists in Washington last night. He includes Ma'ale Adumim in his building plan. Arye Golan reports:

Two days ago, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said, in the first meeting of its kind with the pro-Arab lobby in the United States, that Jerusalem is taboo and Israel is not prepared to negotiate on it. Last night, in order to underline that position, he disclosed that he had presented to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a plan to build almost 13,000 housing units in greater Jerusalem.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] I refuse to accept the concept of East Jerusalem. There is just one Jerusalem. My plans—I have already presented them to the mayor and the Jerusalem local council—are meant to strengthen Jerusalem and answer its needs. Jerusalem is currently undergoing very difficult processes. Young people are leaving the town, often because we are incapable of providing young couples and new immigrants with housing. We have not built there for a long time. I, therefore, definitely plan to create the conditions to build about 13,000 units within Jerusalem in the near future. [end recording]

The planned apartments will be built in Har Homa, Ramot, Gilo, Pisgat Ze'ev, and Giv'at Ze'ev. From Ben-Eli'ezer's viewpoint, Ma'ale Adumim is an integral part of the capital.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Eli'ezer] I am surprised at the question because Ma'ale Adumim has one of the most important reserves of unbuilt lands. We are currently building in Ma'ale Adumim, and there are plans to continue building there.

[Golan] Did U.S. Administration officials you met express opposition to the planned building in Jerusalem?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, not that I know. I was asked to survey the situation for them and to detail all the building in the territories. As you know, since we came to power there has been no more building inside the territories, there have been no additional settlements, and no expansion of existing settlements, as we decided at the outset. We explained that to them. I know that people sometimes become confused about the figures since when you study their figures you find they include East Jerusalem and other areas, which for us are taboo. [end recording]

Ben-Eli'ezer left Washington for Germany and from there he will fly to China. He has already heard from his Chinese counterpart that they have a shortage of 500,000 apartments.

East Jerusalem Closure To Be 'More Flexible'

TA1810123593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the possible release of Palestinian prisoners who have, in his words, blood on their hands, raises the question of the possible pardons of Jewish murderers such as 'Ami Popper, who killed seven Arabs. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says because this issue has already been raised by several Knesset members from the political right, Police Minister Shahal believes that such a pardon request, in his words, creates problems.

The statement came in the aftermath of Shahal's meeting last night with Faysal al-Husayni, in which it was decided that Israel would be more flexible in its closure between East Jerusalem and the territories. Several thousand doctors, teachers, students, sick people in need of medical care, as well as workers at such institutions as the Muslim waqf and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] will now be allowed into the capital. [passage omitted]

Ministry Rejects Palestinian Airline Request

TA2010093493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Excerpt] Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar rejected a request to set up a Palestinian airline called Palestine Wings and similar requests; he told this to the forum of directors general of companies belonging to the transportation ministry. The minister convened the forum to discuss the preparations by the ministry and its agencies for Palestinian autonomy.

Qeysar said the government must avoid changing the existing aviation situation in negotiations with the Palestinians. "It is a very sensitive issue with many facets," the minister warned. DAVAR has learned that one of the problems is 'Atarot airport, which itself is situated within Jerusalem's jurisdiction, but the end of its runway is within the planned autonomy. [passage omitted]

Finance Officials Comment on Palestinian Economy

TA1910095993 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 18 Oct 93

["Excerpts" from the Government Press Office Economics Desk briefing with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Finance Ministry Director General Aharon Fogel on "Economic Aspects of the Peace Process and the Gaza-Jericho First Arrangement" at Bet Agron in Jerusalem on 18 October]

[Text] Minister Shohat: "In order for this agreement to succeed, there must be an agreement about economic issues between us and the Palestinians. Therefore, in the Declaration of Principles (DOP), there was a decision about establishing an economic committee that will deal with all issues concerning the economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. [In our opinion] what has to happen in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and afterwards in the West Bank, is a lot of money has to be invested in these areas. We believe that in order for there to be a real agreement and a real peace, there must be a change in the GNP of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. We believe that the international community has to raise quite a lot of money to invest in the infrastructure of these areas. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and I participated in a Conference in Washington a little over two weeks ago, where money was raised and pledges given by quite [a number] of countries in order to invest in these areas.

I cannot go into details about the relationship between us and the Palestinians. We will start negotiating in a few days. (...) Generally speaking, we believe that there is a formula about which both sides can agree. The formula will say that we are not going to patronize the Palestinians. We don't want to tell them how to live. We don't want to tell them that they have to do this or that thing. But, we think that we can help them a lot, and we think that there is a mutual interest that there be successful economic development in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and then in the territories. This will be the axis of the conversations between us and the Palestinians. I am not sure what their reaction will be, but I believe that once we suggest a certain form of connections between ourselves and the Palestinians that is reasonable from an economic point-of-view, then we will be able to reach an agreement dealing with all problems that will result from the changed situation.

I want to mention again, two things that we want to happen. First, that there be economic development in these areas. We believe that in order to reach a peace that the population of these areas will support, they have to have the feeling and they have to see that something is changing from the standpoints of economics, investments, job creation, and their standard of living. Secondly, we don't want to decide about their lives. They have to decide in what kind of atmosphere they want to live and what kind of connections will be between us and them. We will propose a certain arrangement; we are looking for cooperation between us and the Palestinians and do not wish to patronize their way of life."

Director-General Fogel: "I'm still excited about the meetings we had in Washington about taking a very important part in establishing, what one may call, the UPA, the United Palestinian Appeal. More than 20 countries sat together in order to declare and decide upon the operating methods of donations. The total amount for 1994, we believe, is about $600 million. Most of it consists of grants, with the remainder, of course, as credit. Some very important principles have been approved. We expect to continue negotiations at the beginning of November, maybe in Paris. First, the immediate needs of the autonomy will be part of the priorities of the allocation of the funds. Regarding immediate needs, everyone should be aware of that basic public services such as education, health, and welfare programs should go on and even develop faster when we are out. The new regime should, for example, collect taxes. But we expect, that at the beginning, that tax collection will decrease. It is natural for anyone to try to avoid paying taxes. So, while the new regime gets in place, services should be supplied, without the needed resources necessarily being at full volume. Second, there will be very important infrastructure projects. Meanwhile, every country likes to deal separately with the various projects. We hope that full coordination will be achieved through a steering committee in order to avoid investments in projects that may serve the interests of the project's sellers and not those of the Palestinian autonomy. We think that everyone will cooperate through the steering committee and use the World Bank, and maybe the European Community banks, as the vehicles through which project evaluation and management will take place. A third element, which is also very important is the behavior of the private business community. I believe that that will show the relative success of the whole issue, from an economic point-of-view. We think the various governments should establish a type of political insurance coverage for those in the private sector who decide to invest in the territories. Eliminating the political risks, we believe, will be the best incentive for the international business community to come and participate in the whole process. So, if the establishment of the international resources, i.e. grants, credit, political risk insurance coverage, will emerge, we are very optimistic about the future of economic life in the territories. We think that that will, maybe, be the most important parameter, mainly for the domestic Palestinian population to judge whether or not the process is a success from their point-of-view."

Question: The United Jewish Appeal is controlled by Jewish people. Is the United Palestinian Appeal under the control of Palestinians? Who is running it?

Minister Shohat: The United Jewish Appeal is run by Jews living all over the world. What was established in Washington was actually the donations of countries, not communities, in order to invest money in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. It's not the same thing. I believe that also the Arab communities from all over the world will give grants for certain activities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. What was established in Washington is the collection of pledges and the steering committee, in which we and the Palestinians will be advisors, not members, that will decide on the allocations. Mr. Fogel said that there is a tendency of some of the countries to operate on a bilateral basis. We believe that it's better that things be coordinated in order to prevent chaos in the areas. Quite a lot of money is going to be invested and we believe that somebody, at least a group of delegates, including professionals from the World Bank and European banks should control the investments.

Question: What would happen if the Palestinians decide to use the money, say, to build a seaport in Gaza and Israel decides that there's no need for it?

Minister Shohat: We don't have a veto over the decisions. We are part of the steering committee team. I believe we cannot veto anything.

Question: What type of relationship do you envisage, and specifically, whether there would be relaxation for Arab workers to work in Israel and whether Israel would lift restrictions on Palestinian agricultural produce?

Minister Shohat: I won't go into details because we have to negotiate with them and have yet to decide on the individual items. There is a committee of the directors-general of all the ministries led by Mr. Fogel. They are discussing the details. Just to give an outline of our intentions, we believe that these two economies have to live together, and there is a mutual interest in not closing everything off hermetically.

Question: Could you clarify about the $600 million. What time period is this for? Is this money separate from the World Bank money and the project aid? Is this money supposed to fund the problems of the transition, for example, as you mentioned, the possibility that there may be a fall in tax collection? How is this particular money going to be administered?

Minister Shohat: The $600 million is the budget for 1994; maybe some of the money will be allocated before for special needs. It has to cover investments in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. It has to cover administrative financing problems that will exist. We are going to phase out in mid-April. Until then, we shall continue to finance all the services as we did before. But, the Palestinians may have special needs. They may want to start organizing the police force and will need some money for this. We think that money from the pledges should go to this. Nobody else can give the money for it. I would say that it's for three purposes: First, for special needs that didn't exist before. Second, to keep the level of services at least as it was when we were responsible for them. And thirdly, for investments in infrastructure in these areas. (...) The $2 billion [announced in Washington] is for four years, not one. Regarding the pledges, some countries said that they're going give a few hundred million dollars but over four to five years. The $2 billion is over three to five years. When we spoke about $600 million, I guess, we didn't go into detail, is from January 1994.

Question: What will be the role of Dov Lautman [former head of the Israel Manufacturers Association]?

Minister Shohat: Mr. Lautman will work voluntarily to attract investments in Israel by companies from all over the world.

Question: Explain more about the political risk insurance. What are you offering? Is Israel going to offer political insurance?

Minister Shohat: We said that we would give $75 million with $25 million in grants and $50 million as political insurance to Israelis that will be ready to enter into joint ventures and to invest in Gaza and the West Bank. This is over five years.

Question: Do you have any estimates on how the Palestinian economy might impact the Israeli economy? Do you have any estimates in terms of financial figures or job losses in textiles or agriculture?

Minister Shohat: We still have to see the details, but generally speaking, we believe that the peace agreement will positively affect our economy. We believe that a lot of factors which caused us problems in the past, such as the risk factor of investing in Israel, will be reduced if the peace process will continue and we reach peace agreements with the Arab countries. We want the Arab boycott to vanish, even though it's not part of the DOP. We also believe that trade connections between us and the Arab countries will develop and contribute to our economy. I believe that the peace agreement is not only economically good for Israel, but that it will influence the entire region. I don't want to exaggerate the expectations. I think that there is a kind of euphoria about investing money in the territories and the area. I think that people are overestimating the possibility of doing it very soon. I want this vision to become a reality but it will take more time than we think.

Question: The Palestinians are very concerned about being swallowed up by the Israeli economy. What assurances do you have for the Palestinians that their tiny economy won't just get completely lost?

Minister Shohat: It's a fact that our GNP per capita is something like 10 times that of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. But, we believe that there's going to be a change over there. The investing of $600 million per year is something that hasn't happened for a long time in these areas. We don't want to patronize them. I believe that the investments there along with the creation of jobs and the upgrading of the infrastructure will naturally increase their GNP and standard of living. If we suggest that certain numbers of Gazans will continue to work in Israel, I believe that they'll continue to do so until they'll have jobs in their areas. I don't think that there is any risk.

Question: The economic protocol talks about water is one of the issues to be discussed during the economic negotiations. Is that going to be an issue that will be dealt with in Paris in November?

Minister Shohat: The steering committee will deal with the money. But in the economic committee, I guess that everything will be discussed. It will include water, energy, communications; everything that is mentioned in the DOP will be discussed.

Question: When will the economic committee start meeting and where?

Minister Shohat: We don't know exactly. We have to get the names from the Palestinians, but it will be very soon.

Question: How will this $600 million be distributed to the Palestinians? Who accepts it and distributes it?

Minister Shohat: It's not finalized yet. It will be discussed in Paris on November 5. But I can imagine that, for example, there is a decision to invest $50 million in the sewage system. Let's say that the World Bank or a European bank will send experts to check the plans, will decide on the details, will allocate the money for design, and they will coordinate it with the PLO's economic people who will be on the steering committee and will know about the project. The World Bank will put out the tenders and will do the job.

Question: Could you give us an example regarding private investment in the territories?

Minister Shohat: I know that there are certain initiatives about organizing a company that will deal with tourist operations, including Israelis, Palestinians and people from other area countries. There is an initiative about establishing a combined Moroccan, Spanish, and Israeli investment company with the participation also of Palestinians from England. There are quite a lot of initiatives.

Question: Where is the $25 million that Israel is giving in grants coming from?

Minister Shohat: It will come from the Israeli budget over the coming five years.

Question: When will there be Palestinian currency?

Minister Shohat: This is part of the answer which I don't give.

Navy Commander: More Terrorist Naval Activity Expected

TA1810172293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Rear Admiral 'Ami Ayalon, the Navy commander, believes that terrorist naval activity will escalate in the coming year, especially from south Lebanon, but also in the Red Sea, and the Gaza Strip. Rear Adm. Ayalon said that the Navy will make sure the sea is secure within the framework of the declaration of principles with the PLO. The Navy commander made the remarks in an address to military correspondents on the occasion of Navy Day. Karmela Menashe reports:

During 1992 and 1993 there was a decline in efforts to attack via the sea, but Rear Adm. Ayalon believes that the most recent infiltration effort with a jet ski is an indication of things to come.

[Begin recording] [Ayalon] We assume that terrorist activity via the sea will escalate due to the fact that the

Rejectionist Front organizations—as they state openly and we have to take them seriously—are actively opposed to the current process. The effort to infiltrate through the sea several days ago is proof of their seriousness. We also assume, by the way, that they will use various ways to go about their activities, including using swimmers and fast boats, which will try to infiltrate the defense system along our coastline.

[Menashe] How does the Navy plan to cope with the terrorist efforts you have described?

[Ayalon] We plan to continue, and to increase, our activity against the terrorist organizations in two ways: Using offensive means, we will continue to keep a watch on all the areas where they train and attack those areas wherever they may be. Simultaneously, we will continue to sail along Israel's coastline in order to make sure that if they do manage to take off they will at least not reach the beach, but will be drowned at sea. [end recording]

Navy To Receive New Equipment

TA1810193193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Navy has introduced improved radar and night vision systems, and,—revealed Navy Commander 'Ami Ayalon—will soon begin fitting its Dabur patrol boats with a new propulsion system, which will effectively double the speed of the long serving vessels. This is of particular significance in light of continuing efforts by the terrorists to use small speedy crafts, such as the water scooter, to avoid capture as they race towards the Israeli coast.

Turning to the more conventional challenges facing Israel's Navy, Rear Adm. Ayalon said that at least for the moment, Syria continues to pose the most serious naval threat to Israel. While the Syrians have made no major recent acquisition of vessels, they are likely to continue to seek improved weaponry systems, as well as to pursue efforts to develop their own capabilities to manufacture and upgrade equipment.

The Israel Navy is looking forward to receipt of its first Saar 5 missile boats next summer. Three Saar 5 boats are being built in the United States, and the first of them, the Elat, has just begun its sea trials. All three vessels are due to arrive in Israel by the end of next year, and they will then fitted with the exclusive electronics and weapons system being developed especially for them here in Israel.

Also proceeding according to plan is construction of two new Dolphin class submarines in West Germany with the launch date marked for the end of 1996. Further new equipment to be acquired by the Navy includes helicopters from the United States, which will be based on board Israeli missile boats from where they will undertake a variety of missions.

Navy Cancels Development of Helicopter

TA1910135993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The Navy has canceled the development of a remotely piloted sea helicopter, Rear Admiral 'Ami Ayalon, the commander of the Navy, said yesterday.

He said the project was canceled due to technological problems that Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has not managed to overcome and the enormous growth in development costs, which were initially put at several tens of millions of dollars and are now estimated to be nearly nine times that.

According to Navy sources, millions of dollars have gone down the drain due to the decision to stop the development work.

Instead of developing the remotely piloted helicopter at IAI, the Navy decided to procure piloted sea aircraft capable of taking off and landing on the new Saar 5 missile ships.

Rear Adm. Ayalon said that the lesson from this is that Israel should not develop complete weapons systems, such as aircraft, helicopters, or submarines; should make do with off-the-shelf products; and should concentrate on developing small technological systems which improve the performance of the large platforms.

Reservists Refuse Duty, Reject 'Foreign Rule'

TA1910123393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Two residents of the 'Etzyon Bloc were sentenced today to imprisonment in a military jail after they refused to carry out reserve duty in the territories. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Captain Moti Karpel was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment and Sergeant Major Hayim Nativ received a 10-day sentence.

Two days ago, the two men sent a letter to the prime minister in which they stated that they would not show up for reserve duty in the territories because they refuse to lend their hand to the establishment of foreign rule in Eretz Yisra'el. They also protested the intention to release Palestinian prisoners.

Merchant Wounded by 'Terrorists' in Strip

TA1910172093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Moshe 'Atiya, a vegetable merchant from Bet Shiqma, was slightly wounded in the northern part of the Gaza Strip today from shots fired during a visit to a local merchant. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that terrorists fired shots at 'Atiya from a car driving past. He was wounded in the shoulder and hospitalized in Ashqelon. A friend who was with him went into shock.

In the al-Burayj refugee camp an Arab youth was wounded by soldiers' gunfire. The youth was wounded by rubber bullets after throwing stones at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. After being treated in a hospital he was sent home.

Narcotics Authority Fears Influx of Trafficking

NC1910111193 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 19 (AFP)—The coming of peace in the Middle East and the opening of borders is likely to see drugs and dealers flooding into Israel, the head of the government's Anti-Drug Authority warned Tuesday [19 October].

General Beni Arad, the authority's director-general has sent an alarming report to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the army chief of staff and the police to warn against "Israel being turned into a favorite home for drug dealers."

"With peace, open borders and a lifting of restrictions on the movement of people and goods, Israel's fight against drugs is going to get more complicated," Arad said in the report.

"There is a risk that drug trafficking will become one of the most flourishing trades in the Middle East.

"Because of Israel's geo-political situation and its fairly laxist legislation, many dealers from all over the Middle East will decide to settle in our country," the report said.

Arad told AFP the menace must be discussed at the Israel-PLO talks on implementing autonomy in the occupied territories, which resume in Egypt on Wednesday.

Israel's border checks today concentrate on arms smuggling. "Now we have to switch priority and mobilise the police, customs and the army in the fight against the scourge of drugs," he said.

Lebanon is the leading producer of hashish in the region and Egypt the leading consumer, according to Arad. The drug is shipped either from Rosh Haniqra in northern Israel to al-'Arish in the Egyptian Sinai desert, by land through the border town of Metulla or through the occupied territories, according to the general.

The report calls for the government to demand that the Palestinians agree to coordinate the drug fight on a regional basis.

According to the authority, about 30,000 Israelis are addicts with about 20 tonnes of hashish and three tonnes of heroin coming into the country each year, mainly from Lebanon. Only about 15 percent of it is seized.

U.S. Envoy Ross Arrives From Tunis 19 Oct

JN1910212193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator for the Middle East peace process, arrived in Amman tonight on a brief visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the region. During this tour, he will hold talks with senior officials to lay the groundwork for a regional tour by U.S. secretary of state in early November to speed up the peace process.

Prior to his departure from Tunis tonight, Ross said that his current tour is designed to allow him to become acquainted with the views of those concerned with the success of the peace process.

'Difficult' Ross Mission Viewed

JN2010104793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "New Israeli Maneuvers To Abort Peace Process"]

[Text] It is clear that the mission of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, will not be easy due to the impediments Israel is placing in front of the efforts trying to shift the negotiations to a more advanced stage toward comprehensive peace on all tracks.

With the same clarity, the U.S. envoy will hear in Amman today a Jordanian position on the peace process that has not changed. This position is based on principled constants through which Jordan seeks to attain a peace acceptable to future generations. This peace should be comprehensive, just, and permanent. It should also return all occupied territories to their legitimate owners.

The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda following the Palestinian-Israeli mutual recognition and the signing of Gaza- Jericho First accord does not by any means seek to show laxity regarding implementation of the requisites of the aspired peace, to which Jordan strongly subscribes. Jordan's understanding of the peace process calls for a realization of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks after the progress on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. Short of this, the region will not attain the hoped-for peace.

It has been noted over the past few days that there is a sort of pressure on the U.S. Administration's efforts, through its envoy Ross, to derail the peace process and torpedo the principles of Madrid conference regarding the negotiations with Syria. Yesterday, a senior Israeli Government official said that resumption of bilateral talks with Syria will lead nowhere, and claimed that Damascus wants to go to the talks while having a blank check signed by Israel. The Israeli official called for alternative means to the negotiations other than those set at Madrid conference, saying that Tel Aviv wants secret negotiations or negotiations through the United States.

It is clear that this approach emphasizes the Israeli Government's desire to abort the U.S. envoy's tour, continue its maneuvering policy, and block the efforts the cosponsors of the peace process are making.

Within the framework of the Israeli maneuvers and procrastinations which indicate that Tel Aviv is not serious concerning about a comprehensive and just peace, Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday shunned the timetable of Gaza-Jericho talks by saying that it may be difficult to complete the talks with the PLO within two months set by the agreement with the PLO. In his speech at the Knesset, Rabin cast doubt on the PLO's ability to administer self-rule.

This Israeli behavior, which conflicts with the essence of the peace process, calls for a firm U.S. position through the application of pressure on Israel in order to meet the requisites of expediting the peace process. This is what makes Ross' mission a difficult one.

King Receives Phone Call From PLO's 'Arafat

JN1910170593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a telephone call from His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. During the telephone conversation, President 'Arafat expressed his immense appreciation of the role his majesty the king is playing to support the cause of the Palestinian people. He also commended the king's concern about the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace that would safeguard the nation's rights and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination on their national soil.

His majesty the king and President 'Arafat exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues.

Israeli Report on Palestinian 'Shift' Denied

JN1710104793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian sources Saturday dismissed as untrue an Israeli Radio report that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was opposing Jordanian supervision of monetary and banking affairs of the Palestinians during the five-year autonomy period in the occupied territories.

"The report is distorted and does not reflect the actual position of the PLO chairman," said a senior Palestinian source. "For all practical and technical purposes, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will monitor the monetary affairs and the Jordanian currency will continue to be in circulation in the occupied territories," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

Israel Radio said Friday that Mr. 'Arafat did not favour such a role for the CBJ or the Jordanian dinar and that he wanted to set up an independent Palestinian monetary authority and issue a Palestinian currency.

At present the Jordanian dinar is the dominant currency in the occupied territories and most dealings are in the dinar. The Israeli shekel is also in circulation, but, by and large, the dinar is prevalent.

"It is not a question of choice," said the Palestinian source. "It is a matter of prudent economy."

According to the source, the PLO and Palestinian economic planners did consider setting up an independent monetary authority and issuing a Palestinian currency immediately after the autonomy arrangement takes hold on the ground in the occupied territories.

"But the ideas were frozen for practical as well as political reasons," said the source. "The Palestinian autonomy authority does not have the required monetary base to issue its own currency.

"In any event, continued use of the Jordanian dinar is more practical and politically sound in view of the links between Jordan and the Palestinians."

"An independent Palestinian authority and Palestinian currency look very good on paper as nationalist ideas, but realities dictate otherwise," added the source. "They are not a priority now. The most important objective is to develop the economy of the occupied territories, and this cannot be done through independent authorities and own currency."

Under a broad framework for economic cooperation discussed during a visit to Jordan of Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO's Economy Department, two weeks ago, the CBJ, in coordination with a Palestinian authority, will supervise the monetary affairs of the West Bank and Gaza during the five-year interim self-rule period.

"There has been no change in the situation since those discussions," said the source. "Other ideas could be considered at a later stage, depending on the way things take shape during the interim period."

Jordanian officials declined comment. "We don't see why we should comment on Israeli radio reports," said a senior official.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said two weeks ago that Jordanians and Palestinians were discussing economic cooperation but it was premature to discuss specifics.

Palestinian economists have said that the best course of action for the Palestinians during the interim period was to forge close links with Jordan while trying to develop their own economy through reducing their dependence on the Israeli economy.

Samir Hulaylah and Samir 'Abdallah, members of the Palestinian economic team, said last week that one of the main means for the Palestinian authority to raise internal funds was through issuing bonds in Jordanian dinars in coordination with the Jordanian government.

"It is only one of the significant areas where Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation should come into play," said the source.

Israel is known to oppose any independent Palestinian monetary authority and the issuance of a Palestinian currency. The Jewish state tried during 26 years to reinforce the shekel as the dominant currency with the prevalence of Israel banks in the occupied territories, but met stiff resistance from the Palestinians.

Al-Majali Meets UN Assistant Secretary General

JN1910125293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] In his office at the Prime Ministry today, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Peter Hansen, the UN assistant secretary general, who is currently visiting Jordan as part of a regional tour. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the peace process, the means to expedite it, and the role that the United Nations can play in this field.

Abu-Nuwar on Foundations of 'Democratic March'

JN1410212993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has said that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has been working for more than 30 years to achieve a just, comprehensive peace for Middle East peoples and for areas of conflict in the world. The purpose of this is to spare Middle East peoples the whirlpool of wars and the waste of spending enormous amounts of funds on arms in order to be able to channel these funds to promote the development and welfare of nations.

He pointed to the possibility of instability in the Middle East if its peoples' hopes and aspirations for security, stability, and an ideal life are not achieved. Peace, he said, is primarily the peace of the individual, and his security and stability.

Speaking to Arab and foreign reporters in Jordan, Dr. Abu-Nuwar highlighted the principles and foundations of Jordan's democratic march, which equals similar marches in developed states. He said freedom, under the law, is one of the most prominent of these foundations. This freedom is not restricted by the law; rather, the law defends the freedom of others. This is in addition to true parliamentary representation. He stressed the government's abidance by His Majesty King Husayn's directives to ensure fair and free elections.

Nominations for House Election Campaign Begin

JN1410200793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Nominations for elections of the 13th House of Representatives began today throughout the governorates of the kingdom. Each governorate is receiving nomination applications. This process will last until Saturday night. The number of candidates in the kingdom for the first day totaled 447.

Our reporter Khalil al-Qaryuti met with Interior Minister Salamah Hammad to speak about this process.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, according to the initial reports you have received about the nomination process, which started this morning, how are things going so far?

[Hammad] Thank God, the process has been proceeding in an excellent manner. The brothers who want to nominate themselves for the House of Representatives headed this morning for the offices of the governors at the governorate centers. The paperwork was ready for them. Their papers were examined, and applications were received. The brother governors are now checking the papers in their possession.

[Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, the election campaign also began today. To what degree are the candidates complying with the laws and regulations governing the campaign? Are there any violations, and what measures were taken?

[Hammad] Yes, the election campaign began early this morning, and even late last night. Many brothers who are planning to nominate themselves started putting up placards and did other things pertaining to the election campaign. Regrettably, there have been some violations. Some placards obstructed traffic. Some people used electrical poles in some areas. We have asked the administrative governors and the Public Security agencies, through the municipalities and the Greater Amman Municipality, to remove these placards after contacting the brothers who wish to nominate themselves to address the situation. It is our country, and the placards reflect on it. A civilized picture would give us all a good reputation. I hope that all brothers will abide by the law and show their love for Jordan by putting up placards in the appropriate place.

[Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, what about your special arrangements concerning balloting?

[Hammad] All arrangements have been made. We are now in the process of distributing election cards. All preparations have been made, the ballots and the boxes are ready. God willing, everything will be ready once the election cards are distributed.

[Al-Qaryuti] When will the distribution of election cards begin?

[Hammad] I said that the distribution of cards started two days ago in some places. In other places, they are still filling out the election cards so they can be distributed to citizens.

[Al-Qaryuti] Your Excellency the Minister, is there anything you would like to say to the voters and candidates?

[Hammad] What I would like to say first to the brother candidates is that our citizens know enough and know what they want from the candidate. All the brother candidates are now known to the citizens. I hope they will be an example of discipline, give precedence to the homeland, love each other, demonstrate equality without being selfish, malicious, or obstructing the each others activities. This is what I want from the candidates. As for the citizens, I am confident that they are now fully aware of what they want, and that they will report to balloting centers to elect those who will represent them in parliament. [end recording]

Civil Service Impartiality Urged

JN1510173193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] As of 1330 today, 34 more candidates have nominated themselves for the next parliamentary elections, raising the total to 480, Interior Ministry sources said.

It is worth noting that the Interior Ministry will continue to take applications until the end of duty hours tomorrow, Saturday.

In a related development, Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu- Nuwar, head of the Civil Service Council, has said that the right of a civil employee, as a Jordanian citizen, to embrace any political ideology he chooses, join any political party he wants, and vote for any candidate he selects, is a constitutional, legal, and national right. This right is safeguarded and strongly adhered to by the Jordanian Government in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, to defend freedom, democracy, and human rights.

The Civil Service Council urges civil employees who have registered their names to vote in the elections not to hesitate to fulfill their national duty and give their votes in absolute freedom to whoever they want.

However, under the Elections Law and the Parties Law, no party or candidate has the right to utilize public government buildings, state departments and institutions, houses of worship, and their employees to promote election campaigns in any way.

Civil employees in particular are not allowed to take advantage of their positions or authorities in the interest of any party or independent candidate, whatever the case, for the following reasons:

1. The civil service system is totally impartial toward parties and candidates.

2. The principles of integrity and impartiality in elections require the impartiality of the government and the civil service system, since it is an inseparable part of the executive branch and follows its orders.

This is why the government has banned the participation of state employees in election campaigns in any way.

The Civil Service Council urges all civil state employees to honestly and faithfully stick to the impartiality of the civil service system, and not to get involved in the election campaigns, so the general elections will remain pure and steer clear of any interference.

Ballot Center Hours Extended

JN1910151493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has issued a decision stating that the office hours of ballot distribution centers throughout the Kingdom shall be extended until 1600 as of tomorrow, Wednesday.

Hammad noted that this decision is desgined to facilitate things for citizens; i.e., to enable them to obtain their voter cards after their duty hours.

Royal Court Chief, Minister, Advisers Appointed

JN1410193393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A royal decree has been issued appointing His Excellency Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir as chief of the Royal Hashemite Court as of 14 October 1993.

Another royal decree has been issued appointing His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Karaki as adviser to his majesty the king and president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research-Al al-Bayt Foundation, as of 14 October 1993.

A third royal decree has been issued approving the cabinet change that includes appointing Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan as minister of tourism and antiquities as of 14 October 1993. [passage omitted]

A royal decree had earlier accepted the resignation of Yanal 'Umar Hikmat, minister of tourism and antiquities, and appointed him adviser to his majesty the king. [passage omitted]

U.S. Pressure To Disarm Hizballah Criticized

NC1410123993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 14 Oct 93

[From the "Footnote to Events" program: "Hizballah's Gun"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother believers, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. Amid agreements and capitulating schemes, everybody is discussing Hizballah's gun. The United States is restless, publicly and secretly calling for disarming Hizballah because it hinders the alleged peace process or because it confronts arrogant U.S. plans aimed at imposing further political, economic, and cultural hegemony on our entire region and Islamic nation.

They removed the true name of our nation and called it the Middle East to secure a place for a foreign state, a racist entity out of harmony with the region's structure and cultural identity and alien to its history and geography, a temporary, viral entity called Israel.

O oppressed, we call on you to be alert and ready. Together with you, we emphasize leader Khomeyni's pledge to remove the cancerous gland that is Israel. This is why Hizballah held the gun. This is why Tel Aviv's Zionist government is worried about Hizballah's weapons and plans. This is why the usurping Zionists in occupied south Lebanon are screaming in pain from the heroic jihad operations carried out by Islamic mujahidin with Hizballah's weapons.

This is also why sedition surfaced in Beirut, hurting 50 people on the airport bridge simply because they announced that they reject the Gaza-Jericho agreement and similar upcoming schemes, primarily the Jazzin-first plan. This is why Israel's agents in Lebanon repeat their known tune about Hizballah's gun and the suspect media publish scenarios for disarming Hizballah. Backstage conspiracies are being hatched and public initiatives, indeed, adventures, are being pondered against Hizballah's weapon, not least the developments during and after the seven-day war toward the end of July and not most the massacre at the airport bridge.

But the question remains: Will the conspiracies achieve this suspect mission? Will the wishes of Crocker, Rabin, and Christopher be realized? Will some agent or stupid Lebanese side rest when resistance disappears from the country and the doors are opened to agents, brokers, foreigners, and usurers? The answer cannot be based on a passing, relatively short period; it cannot be based on the life of this or that government. The answer must be viewed against a long, strategic scope—the country's future and its next generations, the freedom of the Lebanese, and the country's political and economic decisionmaking.

What is no longer secret and what both the oppressed and their enemies alike must know is that Hizballah's weapons are not merely rifles, guns, and rockets. No one can remove Hizballah's real weapon, that of belief, Islam, and the creed to which we hold fast and invoke in our people. We strengthen our presence by understanding this weapon and committing ourselves to it.

O oppressed, this is your decisive weapon. This is Hizballah's weapon that cannot be removed or made ineffective. It is the Koran. It is the last impregnable line of defense. It is the fortifications we build in the nation without a fuss or showing off. It is the culture of mosques, minarets, and religious places. It is the movement of the nation in the various fields of struggle—uncontrolled by any ruler and not made on behalf of any individual. It is the practical protector of the line of prophets, safeguarded by God. And the end is for those who are righteous [part of Koranic verse].

Al-Hariri Returns From Official Visit to France

NC1910204893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut at 1930 tonight after a five-day official visit to the French capital during which he held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, and other officials. These discussions dealt with bilateral relations and regional developments.

Also returning with Prime Minister al-Hariri was his delegation of Ministers Michel Iddih, Muhsin Dallul, Marwan Hamadah, and As'ad Rizq; Council of Ministers' Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar; Development and Reconstruction Council Chairman Eng. al-Fadl Shalaq; Internal Security Forces Director Major General Rafiq al-Hasan; and several advisers.

Seeks French Investment

PM1910150893 Paris LE FIGARO in French 16-17 Oct 93 p4

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Claude Lorieux in Paris on 15 October]

[Text] "French business executives are very interested in investing in Lebanon. They have realized that the country has changed, and that we are serious. But they expect the French Government to make an effort with regard to credit," Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri told LE FIGARO yesterday after his meeting with Francois Perigot, president of the National Confederation of French Employers.

The Beirut Government chief, who is making his first official visit to Paris, stressed that Lebanon offers "vast opportunities" to French industrialists and that they are "competitive" there.

Mr. al-Hariri refused to describe Paris' financial attitude as "timid." Quite the reverse! He regards his talks on Thursday with Mr. Mitterrand, Mr. Seguin, and Mr. Balladur, who hosted a dinner for him at the Quai d'Orsay, as very positive. He explained: "Until now we had not asked for anything. We have just done so. I do not think the French Government will stint in its efforts. We are not asking for handouts. We want to establish bilateral relations based on the two countries' mutual relations." The "general cooperation agreement" jointly signed with Edouard Balladur on Thursday is "a necessary commitment to permit the implementation of specific projects...." Lebanon has just invited tenders. It will need funding. "It is now," Rafiq al-Hariri said, "that we will judge the French people's attitude."

The Lebanese Government chief is also anxious to accomodate his Gulf friends. However, they have apparently been delaying in paying their promised contribution to the country's rebuilding since the al-Ta'if accords (1989). "They promised more than $300 million. They will pay it," Mr. al-Hariri said, without being able to specify the sums already paid.

What about peace? What about the peace so conducive to business? None of the prime minister's French interlocutors expressed the wish that Beirut should quickly sign an agreement with Israel. "They are well aware," he said, "that the complications are not coming from our side, but from the Israeli side!" Nor did any French official speak to him about General Michel 'Awn, exiled in France since he left the refuge of our embassy in Beirut.

A great deal of water has passed under the bridges of the Seine and the Barrada, the river which flows through Damascus. Mr. al- Hariri said: "It is natural for Lebanon, like any other state, to want good relations with its neighbors. It is also natural for us to maintain good relations with France for historical, cultural, economic, and political reasons. Where is the contradiction in that? There is none." His talks in Damascus on Monday "had no connection" with his visit to Paris. They related to the peace process.

The two neighboring capitals are closely coordinating their negotiation strategy. "Our relations are very good. What would we stand to gain from one of us signing more rapidly than the other?" It is being said in Beirut that the Syrians and Lebanese could shortly sign a kind of framework agreement with the Israeli state. Mr. al-Hariri admits that "it is a possibility. We are ready. But everything depends on Israel."

The fact remains that Lebanon, in which there is a large Syrian military contingent, is suffering much more than Syria from the Israeli army's "outbursts of anger." The July bombings proved that yet again. Rafiq al-Hariri said: "Lebanon will benefit from peace. But we want a lasting peace, and hence a comprehensive peace which involves everybody. The war years have made us cautious."

Like Damascus, Beirut is the only Arab capital invited to the Madrid Conference (October 1991) which is making its participation in the multilateral peace negotiations conditional on a breakthrough in the bilateral negotiations. Lebanon's absence from the conference on the Palestinian refugees which has just ended in Tunis was noted. And yet some 300,000 Palestinians live on its territory. Mr. al-Hariri attaches a great deal of importance to this issue: "We cannot allow them to become Lebanese citizens. That would jeopardize the demographic, social, economic, and political balance. Moreover, the Constitution prohibits it. A status will have to be found for them by negotiation. For the time being, like other Arab citizens, they can work within certain limits and buy goods within certain limits. They have the same rights."

In one year of government, Rafiq al-Hariri prided himself on having stabilized the rate of the Lebanese pound against the dollar, having launched several rebuilding contracts (electricity, telephone, sports complex, airport). These major contracts should provide work for the poorest Lebanese and hence give them a better standard of living. The prime minister is aware of the inequalities which beset Lebanese society.

He said: "Economic problems cannot be solved in 48 hours. Not in Lebanon or anywhere else. Furthermore, it takes time to ensure respect for democracy. We need to have discussions and win people over. But things are moving in the right direction."

Speaker Birri Addresses Chamber of Deputies

NC1910122993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] A plenary Chamber of Deputies session was held at 1045 today to elect two secretaries, three commissioners, and the members of the parliamentary committees. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri presided over the meeting, which was attended by 112 deputies. The government was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr and 20 ministers.

The constitutional provisions and the regulations pertaining to the elections were read at the outset of the meeting. Speaker Birri stressed adherence to national unity, the resistance, and cooperation with Syria. He maintained that the time has come for the citizen to study the government's actions.

Speaker Birri raised a number of questions regarding the Gaza- Jericho agreement, particularly with respect to the future of Palestinian refugees and the danger of settling them in Lebanon. He maintained that the agreement is self-explanatory. It is not a historical or a political solution, but an economic agreement. He doubted that aid would be given to Lebanon after this agreement. He also affirmed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Speaker Birri criticized any attempt to separate the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, saying that there can be no Lebanese settlement without Syria.

In his speech, Speaker Birri enumerated the accomplishments of the Chamber of Deputies and the parliamentary committees since their election. He stressed the need to consider Lebanese expatriates as important.

Elections then began for the Chamber bureau staff. Deputies Camille Ziyadah and Akram Shuhayyib were elected without contest as secretaries. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Rahman, Joe Khadarian, and Joseph Mughazil were also elected without contest as commissioners.

The process to elect parliamentary committees is now in progress. Members of the parliamentary finance committee are now being elected. It is expected that Deputy Samir 'Azar will be elected chairman of the committee, replacing Deputy Khalil al-Hirawi.

Israeli-SLA Clashes With Resistance Reported

Israeli Military Patrol Hit

NC1910141193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The resistance men in the south have detonated an explosive charge against an Israeli military patrol on al-Dabshah- al-Tuhrah Road, killing and wounding several members of the patrol.

The occupation forces shelled with mortars Wadi al-Saluqi in the central sector at dawn today. This was accompanied by machine-gun fire over the Hula suburbs and Israeli helicopter flights over the area.

Enemy Bombardment of Bra'shit Reported

NC2010081293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance heroes dealt a new blow to the Zionists last night when they repulsed a Zionist attempt to advance toward Bra'shit, killing and wounding several enemy soldiers.

At 1930 last night, a Zionist military group attempted to advance toward Bra'shit, where it met an advance ambush of the Islamic Resistance. Violent clashes ensued for around 20 minutes during which several members of the enemy group were killed or wounded. The group was forced to retreat.

Later, the enemy artillery stationed in the Bra'shit and Muhaybib positions used 81 and 120-mm fire and 105-mm tank fire to bombard Bra'shit and its environs. The occupation troops also used 12.7-mm machine guns to strafe the area. Eyewitnesses inside the occupied border zone saw a helicopter landing at the scene to evacuate the dead and wounded. Israeli warplanes overflew and conducted mock raids of the area, dropping illumination flares.

According to security reports, a Zionist gunboat fired at a UN vehicle travelling on the main road between al-Bayyad and al-Naqurah inside the occupied border zone. Three people were hurt, one seriously. They belong to the French contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The Zionist bombardment of the outskirts of Bra'shit hit a position of the Irish contingent. No casualties were reported.

Elsewhere, an Israeli gunboat was seen cruising off the Sarafand shore at 2045. At 2100, a Zionist infantry patrol advanced toward the Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa then retreated. At 2115, Zionist warplanes dropped flares over the Palestinian camps in Sidon. At 2130, Zionist warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah region.

At around 2145, four Zionist gunboats appeared off the Sarafand shore. At 2245, the outskirts of Sribbin were raked from the Rshaf position. Ten minutes later, the outskirts of Bra'shit came under intermittent 60 and 81-mm fire from the Muhaybib and Bra'shit positions. At 2315, the enemy strafed the al-Suwayda' outskirts. And the outskirts of Humin al-Fawqa were strafed by gunfire from the Sujud position. Gunboats cruising off the Sarafand shore used loudspeakers to tell fishermen not to fish in deep water, but to return to the shore.

Israelis Kidnap Fishermen, Blow Up Boats

NC2010083693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Muhammad al-Sayyid dispatch from Sidon]

[Excerpt] The Zionist enemy performed a new act of naval piracy early this morning. After kidnapping three fishermen who were fishing in deep water off the Sarafand shore and imposing a naval siege to prevent fishermen from doing their job, the Zionist enemy at 0300 this morning blew up three fishing boats docked at the Hotel al-Munis marina in the Khayzaran area. The boats belong to Husayn 'Ali Salim, Darwish Haydar, and Abu-'Ali 'Atwah. The explosion, which was heard several miles away, destroyed the three boats. [passage omitted]

SLA Shells 'Terrorists' 19 Oct

NC2010085993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that terrorists used rockets and machine guns to attack a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Bra'shit at 2000 yesterday. Immediately afterward, the SLA personnel manning the post returned the fire and shelled the terrorists' routes of escape. At 2300 yesterday, several Katyusha rockets were fired from Iqlim al-Tuffah on the border strip.

In a statement, Hizballah admitted that one of its elements was killed in this attack.

Al-Shar': U.S. Realizes Syrian, Lebanese Tracks Linked

NC1910213293 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 14 Oct 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Thurayya 'Asi in Damascus]

[Excerpts] After the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, all eyes were on Washington. Arab and U.S. officials held talks on the Middle East peace process on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

After his return from Washington, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' did not appear pessimistic. He actually told us that his talks with U.S. Administration officials were useful and positive and that the U.S. commitments and the content of the telephone conversations between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton were emphasized so that the peace process could be expedited.

Speaking to AL-DIYAR from his Foreign Ministry office in Damascus' al-Maliki suburb, Minister al-Shar' said he sensed American insistence on commitments to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and a desire to continue the peace process on the basis of the principles outlined in the American document that launched the negotiations.

Al-Shar' added: Washington's willingness to play its role is evidenced by the decision to send Dennis Ross to the region on 20 October and the planned visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher next month.

Al-Shar' said the U.S. Administration clearly realizes that the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks are linked and that peace cannot be divided. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Shar' believes in the unity of the two tracks because what happened on the Palestinian track will not happen on the Lebanese track.

When we asked Minister al-Shar' about the possibility of the American envoys to the Middle East applying pressure on Syria, he said the American Administration knows in advance that there is no room for pressure. If pressure is necessary, he said, it must be applied on Israel so that it will deal with the process more positively and show flexibility toward principled issues and so that it will implement the international resolutions positively if a just and comprehensive peace is to be achieved.

On the impact of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, al-Shar' denied any negative impact as long as the Syrians and Lebanese abide by the policy of coordination and understanding over principles. Al-Shar' added: We are not concerned about what happens on the Palestinian track, which is now moving in another direction since the PLO leadership opted for this unilateral road. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rabbani Views Ties With Russia, U.S.

NC2010075193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Oct 93

["Second and last part" of a telephone interview with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency President Rabbani. As you have said, life in Afghanistan is gradually returning to normal in view of your efforts. How do you see your relations with the neighboring countries?

[Rabbani] We want to establish good relations with all parties and with our neighbors. Our policy is not to interfere in any country's internal affairs, and we don't permit any country to interfere in our internal affairs.

We have told Russian Federation leaders during their visits to Kabul that we want to turn a new page with them, since the leadership that fought us no longer exists and the Communism in Russia that wanted to invade the country has collapsed. We want to turn a new page in our relations with the Russian Federation. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has invited us to visit Russia and we have accepted. We will raise several issues when we visit Moscow.

We thank every country, including the United States, for their political support and backing for the Afghan people during their tribulations. We want to maintain our relations and hope the United States will support the Afghan people during reconstruction and rebuilding. This is how we want our relations with all the friends who supported us during our tribulations.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency President Rabbani, when will the Afghan refugees return home? Could there be a very early return?

[Rabbani] Many of these refugees have returned home, but many outside are very eager to return. The resources the refugees get when they return are few. The United Nations is also seeking their return, but it too lacks the material resources to help the Afghan refugees when they return. This is one of the problems. We did understand the problems these refugees faced when they returned to their various provinces and found their houses destroyed. There is not enough food in the country because the agricultural system has been destroyed. These are the problems they face. All the Afghan refugees want to return as soon as possible. We have formed committees from Afghanistan, the neighboring countries, and the United Nations to discuss the refugees' return and the arrangements that must be made when they return.

[Abu-al-Majd] Have you found a response from the Gulf states you visited in support of Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] The brothers have promised to help us. We hope they can at this important phase in our history. Undoubtedly, the brothers who have stood at our side and helped us will also help us now.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you view Egyptian-Afghan relations now and in future?

[Rabbani] Undoubtedly, our relations are excellent. We want to build strong and strategic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Egyptian Government and people supported us during our ordeal. They continue to support us. We thank his excellency President Husni Mubarak, who has played a role in supporting and backing the Afghan issue. We hope our relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt will strengthen during reconstruction and development and [words indistinct].

[Abu-al-Majd] When will Afghanistan, the brotherly and Islamic state, have the effect we hope for in the Islamic world? What are your plans to put Afghanistan on the right path toward making an Islamic contribution?

[Rabbani] We implore God to help us achieve this soon. We want to strengthen security by collecting weapons and unifying all the mujahidin's ranks in a united and organized army. We are returning the refugees who fled their homes. We are offering them the necessary services. We are building the main utilities. Thanks be to God, after the refugees return and security is reestablished, Afghanistan will have a strategic role in its relations with its neighbors and brothers. Afghanistan has an important strategic position.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Rabbani] Thank you.

Helal, U.S. Officials Discuss Security, Elections

LD1610190993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed engineer Qotboddin Helal, first deputy prime minister, met this afternoon in the premiership building with (John Holzman), in charge of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the U.S. State Department, and Richard Smyth, American consul in Peshawar, who have recently come to Kabul. The press office of the premiership reported: While representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan were present, the conversation in the meeting was on the current situation in Afghanistan, security issues, and the explanation of election proposals for a broad-based government in Afghanistan. Hope was expressed that the United Nations and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] would supervise the elections.

Mentioning the 14-year jihad of the Muslim and mojahed people of Afghanistan and the martyrdom of 1.5 million people, 5 million Afghan refugees, hundreds of thousands of the disabled, and the destruction of more than 70 percent of residences and buildings, the esteemed deputy prime minister asserted that the people of Afghanistan, who have defeated communism in the world, deserve all kinds of humanitarian aid and assistance. In response (John Holzman) promised that with the arrival in Afghanistan of another delgation headed by Mrs. (Robin Rapheal), the possibility of the consolidation of relations and the preparation of the ground for assistance for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will become more favorable.

According to another report, esteemed Dr. Mohammad Jalil Shams, Afghan assistant minister of foreign affairs, met today, Saturday 24 Mizan [16 October], with esteemed (John Holzman), in charge of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the U.S. State Department, and esteemed Richard Smyth, American consul in Peshawar. [passage indistinct]

Explosion at Food, Clothing Depot Reported

LD1510190693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Last night at about 2100 an explosion occurred in a depot of food and clothes, situated in Wazirabad in Ward 10 of Kabul. Quoting a responsible security source, a military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reports: The explosion, which was perpetrated by groups against the Islamic State, fortunately caused no loss of life. The fire caused by the explosion was extinguished very quickly. The case is under serious investigation.

Bangladesh

Zia Departs for Commonwealth Summit

BK1910153593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has left for Nicosia to attend the biennial conference of the Commonwealth heads of government. This conference will begin in Cyprus next Thursday [21 October]. The prime minister is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 50-nation conference. This conference is likely to continue until 25 October. Among others, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman; Begum Halima Khatun MP; Abdul Gani MP; Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman; and the prime minister's secretary, Dr. Kamaluddin Siddiqui, are accompanying Khaleda Zia.

The prime minister was seen off at Zia International Airport today by her cabinet colleagues; chiefs of the Army, the Navy, and Air Force; members of the diplomatic corps; and senior civil and military officials.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia attended the last Commonwealth summit at Harare in the year 1991. The Cyprus summit is being held in the backdrop of large-scale changes in international political situation. The 5-day long conference will be inaugurated by the president of Cyprus, Glavkos Kliridhis, at the international conference center in Nicosia. This summit will give an opportunity to Prime Minister Zia to reestablish personal contacts with the leaders of the Commonwealth. As a result of her talks with the leaders of the Commonwealth attending the conference the ties of Bangladesh with these countries is expected to develop further.

Zia Congratulates Bhutto on Election

BK2010154993 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has congratulated Ms. Benazir Bhutto for being elected prime minister of Pakistan. In a message sent today, Begum Zia expressed optimism that the hopes and aspirations of the people of Pakistan will be fulfilled under her able leadership. Begum Zia, who is also the current chairperson of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], expressed the hope that Bhutto will extend full cooperation and support for the establishment of an atmosphere of peace and understanding in the South Asian region with a view to improving the standard of living of the people. Zia also expressed the hope that ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan will be further strengthened under her leadership.

Political Will Needed To Resolve Water Issue

BK1810155393 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Oct 93 p 5

[Editorial: "Bangladesh's Share of the Ganges Water"]

[Text] The issue over which a nationwide consensus exists, irrespective of differences of political platforms, is the sharing of the Ganges water with our neighbour India. The issue has been forcefully placed before the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday by Begum Khaleda Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, in her address to the session. In fact political and intellectual circles in Dhaka had been looking forward to this issue being the keynote of the Prime Minister's speech at the world forum. The reason for such speculation and expectation growing in these circles is that here was a crucial national issue that had hung fire ever since the Farakka Barrage was commissioned much against the protests from the people and political organisations.

Incidentally, Begum Khaleda Zia at a public meeting at Ishurdi on April 9, 1988 criticised the incumbent government for not raising the Farakka issue at the International Forum. Estranged relations between Pakistan and India could understandably have much to do with India going ahead with the construction of the barrage and having shown little interest in then Pakistan's protests against it. But the emergence of Bangladesh was expected to have changed the geopolitical calculations enough to make possible an early solution to the water-sharing dispute.

In fact the initial response from India over the issue was fairly encouraging and an agreement was signed on the Ganges water-sharing in 1977, providing Bangladesh with the 80 per cent guarantee of the total Ganges water flow. But later, at the time of signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Ganges in 1982, India removed the 80 per cent guarantee clause. A subsequent MOU signed in 1985 on the Ganges water was laced with directives for experts to complete a joint study in 12 months. The agreement however expired in 1988 and ever since there has been no agreed bilateral arrangement for Bangladesh to receive its due share of the Ganges water. The result has been that unilateral withdrawal by India of the Ganges water has caused wide-ranging damage to northern and western Bangladesh, directly affecting 4 crore people. The devastating effect that is being increasingly visible has been on the flow of waters resulting in widespread salinity, desertification of much of the region, navigability of the rivers, destruction of fish resources, posing an overall threat to the development of industries and agriculture, not least to the environment. Needless to say, environmentally, the damage done by the Farakka Barrage can reasonably be regarded as the worst, produced by an engineering project obstructing the flow of natural waters.

By raising the question at the UN session and therefore bringing it to the notice of the world community the Bangladesh Prime Minister has mainly acted in line with the wishes of the people of Bangladesh who feel strongly about this question and have almost despaired of a solution on a bilateral basis. The sense of disappointment has been reinforced by the fact that the promises made by the Indian Prime Minister at the Seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Summit, held in Dhaka in April last, have not led to a settlement either, despite one ministerial level meeting and two secretarial meetings held, as recommended at the Dhaka talk on Farakka. Neither the New Delhi meeting of the two Prime Ministers held last year in which Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao promised an early solution, produced any result.

In such circumstances and in view of the increasing range of the disastrous effect on the quantum of water in Bangladesh rivers, specially its aggravation in the dry season, the Ganges water turned out to be a just case for internationalisation. The situation in fact is as desperate as that for Bangladesh and its economic and environmental survival, among other very critical needs. We agree with Begum Khaleda Zia that there is still time for India to help achieve a solution as promised by the Indian Prime Minister, on the basis of equitable sharing of the Ganges waters.

India and Bangladesh share in common 54 rivers flowing across lower riparian Bangladesh. Under the international law of rivers and natural waters, Bangladesh's claim to a legitimate share of the waters has to be recognised. Common rivers flowing across the regions in Europe or in the Americas, apart from those in the subcontinent, shared by India and Pakistan, have not created any problem for the countries concerned as insoluble-looking as the one on the Ganges waters between Bangladesh and India. Given the needed political will on the part of India, a solution can easily be found. We most wistfully hope it will be, as a gesture by a bigger neighbour, on good-neighbourly and human and legal rights grounds.

Former Air Chief Convicted for Corruption

BK1710020293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Former Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal, retired, M. Mumtazuddin Ahmed was convicted yesterday and sentenced to two and three year's simple imprisonment on two counts of corruption charges. Both the sentences will run concurrently. The former air chief was found guilty of amassing wealth beyond his own sources of income and furnishing false statement regarding his movable and immovable property.

India

Developments at Hazratbal Shrine Siege Updated

'Most Heinous Desecration'

BK1910162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has described the continuous holdup of the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar by militants as the most heinous desecration of the sacred place and the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad. Here is a report on today's developments in Srinagar by our correspondent Ajit Singh:

[Begin recording] Jammu and Kashmir Government has expressed concern over the continuing holdup by the militants inside the holy Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, describing their action as the most heinous design of desecration of the shrine and the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad. Addressing a press conference today, the additional chief secretary, home, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, and the state director general [DG] of police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, urged the ulema [religious scholars] and other well-wishers to come forward to persuade the militants to give themselves up to the law so that sanctity of the shrine is maintained. The DG, police, disclosed that besides the Pakistan-trained militants, some foreign mercenaries may also be inside the shrine.

I visited the Hazratbal shrine area today and talked to the sub- area commander, Brigadier S.P.S. Kunwar. Brig. Kunwar told that militants have been laying a wire between the minar [minaret] and the main shrine building today. Two days ago, the militants had said that they had planted explosives in the shrine complex.

It was also revealed today that Jammu and Kashmir police guards for security of the holy relic in the shrine had also vacated the complex after their barrack was set on fire by the militants on Saturday. [end recording]

The imam [prayer leader] of the Hazratbal Mosque has appealed to all concerned to preserve the sanctity of the shrine. In an interview to Doordarshan [television], the imam said:

[Begin recording in Urdu fading into English translation] The situation was normal on Saturday morning. We had offered prayer and other religious rites on that day. When I returned home, I was told about disturbance at the dargah [shrine]. Nobody has the right to take arms into religious places. Coming to mosques or shrines with arms and ammunition is not proper. In my opinion, temples, mosques, churches, and gurdwaras [Sikh temples] are holy places, therefore their sanctity must be maintained. People go to such places for offering prayers and get their wishes fulfilled. Therefore, taking arms and ammunition into such places cannot be justified. [end recording]

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed in Rainabari and Safakadal police station areas in the city for one hour this evening. The relaxation period passed off peacefully. Security forces stopped a group of persons when they tried to take out a procession near the Badshah bridge, defying prohibitory orders.

'No Breakthrough' in Standoff

BK2010032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, no breakthrough has yet been achieved in the Hazratbal Shrine holdup by the militants which continues on the sixth day today. Security vigil around the shrine is continuing. Militants were seen laying a wire between the minarets and the main shrine yesterday. They had said three days ago that explosives have been planted in the shrine complex. The additional chief secretary for home, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, and the director general of police of Jammu and Kashmir state have expressed the hope that militants will see reason and not hurt the sentiments of the people and violate the sanctity of the shrine.

AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports that the state government has appealed to the ulemas, political leaders, and prominent citizens to persuade the militants inside the shrine to give themselves up to the law. The militants have also not given any positive response to the government's appeal to allow at least children, women, and old people trapped inside the shrine to come out. Several women who went to the shrine yesterday, had to return weeping since the militants did not allow their children detained inside to come out of the shrine. The women pleaded with the militants to at least let them see their children but the militants did not oblige.

Meanwhile, curfew has been relaxed for one and a half hours from 0700 this morning in Khaniar and Nauhatta police station areas. The curfew relaxation for one hour was given last evening in Rainawari and Safakadal police station areas. The curfew relaxation passed off peacefully.

March To Liberate Mosque Urged

BK2010033693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0318 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—A prominent Muslim leader Wednesday urged Kashmiris to march on the Hazratbal mosque here after Friday prayers to end the army siege of the shrine that began five days ago.

"We want all Kashmiris to come on to the streets and proceed to the holy mosque after offering their prayers on Friday," said Maulvi Abbas Ansari, a top leader of the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Kashmir.

"They should defy curfew and move towards Hazratbal," he told AFP in this summer Kashmir state capital. "Our aim is to remove the siege by the Indians and clean the shrine."

Ansari, whose group wants the strife-torn Kashmir valley to secede from Hindu-majority India, said he expected hundreds of thousands to join the march on Friday.

Ansari's call came as Indian troops and paramilitary forces continued their siege of the Hazratbal shrine, Kashmir's holiest shrine, for the fifth day with no apparent solution to the stand off in sight.

Srinagar, a city of 700,000 people, was calm early Wednesday. A few buses were seen in curfew-free downtown Lal Chowk (Red Square) after two days, but no vehicles were seen in curfew-bound areas.

"On the surface it is all very, very calm," a police officer said.

The troops have cut off water and electricity supplies to the mosque in a bid to flush out the armed militants and civilians holed up inside since October 15 and have ringed the entire complex with barbed wires.

Much of Srinagar, the urban hub of a bloody Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, has been put under curfew to prevent mass demonstrations in support of the rebels who are waging a four-year- old secessionist campaign.

But on Tuesday, thousands defied the security forces and tried to march to Hazratbal but were dispersed by troops and paramilitary forces using batons and smoke bombs. Dozens of protestors were injured.

The mosque houses a single hair that Muslims say comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammed.

New Delhi has said it would not withdraw the soldiers from around Hazratbal until the Muslim militants give up. Negotiations to end the stalemate have been unsuccessful.

'Thousands' Protest Siege

BK2010070893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 20 Oct 93

[by Izhar Wani]

[Excerpts] Srinagar, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmiris shouting "break the siege" and anti-Indian slogans took to the streets here Wednesday to protest against the army encirclement of their holiest Islamic shrine, witnesses said.

About 4,000 people gathered in one area of this curfew-bound Kashmir summer capital while a smaller demonstration of about 2,000 began in another downtown district, they said.

Indian security forces took no immediate action against the protestors.

On Tuesday, dozens of people were injured here when paramilitary forces used clubs to break up an attempt by thousands of Kashmiri Moslems to march on the Hazratbal mosque located about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the city centre.

An estimated 10,000 Indian troops have surrounded the lakeside shrine where up to 50 armed Moslem separatists have been holed up since late Friday along with some 70 civilians, including women and children.

The troops, backed by armoured personnel carriers and light artillery, have cut off water and power supplies to the white-marble complex in a bid to flush out the militants. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Newspapers and political and military analysts here warned the government meanwhile to quickly resolve the latest crisis and come up with solutions aimed at achieving a durable peace in the strife- torn northern state.

More than 7,000 people have died in the Himalayan region since a violent separatist campaign gained momentum in India's only Moslem- majority state in 1989.

"Hazratbal is suddenly at the centre of the storm. It reflects both the frightening dimension of the crisis that faces the Indian state and the appaling bankruptcy of those elected to govern the country," respected commentator Nikhil Chakravartty said in an editorial in The Pioneer daily.

The Statesman, in an editorial titled "Bumbling Bureaucrats," said Indian allegations that Pakistan engineered the takeover of the shrine by the rebels were "tired old tactics" aimed at shifting the blame for its own failures.

"The confrontation has come at an awkward time for the government with elections due in four populous states," the daily said of the crucial polls scheduled for next month in par@s of northern India.

Said the INDIAN EXPRESS: "The government must not further delay the formulation and implementation of a Kashmir policy in consultation with the opposition parties."

Defence analyst Manoj Joshi said the army's handling of the Hazratbal siege proved that a lightly-armed mobile paramilitary force could combat insurgency in Kashmir more effectively than the military.

"But the first item on the agenda is for those in charge to realise that the problem is too complicated (for a military solution)," Joshi said, urging the government to come up with a formula to ensure durable peace in Kashmir.

Troops Disperse Demonstrators

BK2010090893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—At least 50 people were injured Wednesday when club-wielding paramilitary troops broke up attempts by thousands of Kashmiri Muslims to march on the besieged Hazratbal shrine, witnesses said.

They said troops dispersed sporadic protests in Srinagar, some 10 kilometres (six miles) from the mosque, but a several-thousand strong crowd had defied a curfew and gathered in a district near the shrine held by armed Muslim rebels.

The army sealed off Habak district, some two kilometres (1.2 miles) from the lakeside Hazratbal mosque, and reporters were not allowed to enter the area.

Habak was placed under curfew Sunday night after Muslim guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade from the crowded district on security bunkers near Hazratbal, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir.

Border Security Force (BSF) troops used tear-gas grenades and batons to beat back 4,000 people on a bridge near Dal Lake, forcing the Kashmiris to retreat and leaving several dozen injured, witnesses said.

Many of the demonstrators had bleeding head wounds and several were carried back by retreating protesters.

State police broke up another procession by some 2,000 Kashmiris who attempted to marching on Hazratbal from a downtown district, witnesses said.

"We are breaking up the marches," said BSF chief E.M. Rammohan, who is in charge of the 80,000 paramilitary troops in the Muslim- majority Kashmir valley. "We have the situation well under control."

"We will not allow such demonstrations here," said an adviser to Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao, a former Indian army chief who is New Delhi's chief administrator of the federally-administered northern Indian state.

The official said attempts were being made to talk to the 50-odd armed Muslim militants holed up in the white-marble shrine since late Friday along with some 70 civilians, including women and children.

Previous talks have failed to produce a breakthrough in the standoff.

"We are trying to make them see reason," the official said. [passage omitted]

General: Troops May Storm Mosque

BK2010092093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—Indian troops encircling the Hazratbal shrine have not ruled out storming the complex to flush out Muslim militants holed up inside, the general commanding the siege said here Wednesday.

Lieutenant General S. Padmanabhan told reporters he was "optimistic" the 50 armed Kashmiri Muslim separatists would surrender by Friday at the latest.

"We are also not ruling out the possibility of storming Hazratbal... but we pray that should not happen," said Padmanabhan, commander of 60,000 soldiers in Kashmir. Some 10,000 of his troops have surrounded the mosque.

The general said he had not set a deadline for the militants to give up, but he would accept nothing less than a surrender.

"There are no ifs and buts to it," he warned.

Some 300 Kashmiri Muslims staged a demonstration at the venue of the general's news conference. Soldiers chased and beat up the protesters, leaving six injured.

Infantrymen backed by light artillery, elite "Black Cat" commandos and members of the shadowy Special Frontiers Force have ringed the lakeside Hazratbal mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir.

About 70 civilians, including women and children, are also believed to be trapped inside the complex for the past five days.

Troops have cut off power and water to Hazratbal in an operation reminiscent of a 10-day siege of the Golden Temple in Punjab in May 1988 to flush out Sikh militants from the holiest shrine in Sikhdom.

"They will have to surrender... the sooner the better," Padmanabhan said, adding that he was hopeful of ending the siege before Friday's weekly prayers.

The general also said he suspected top Kashmiri militant leaders may be holed up inside the mosque, which has been ringed with barbed wire.

Late Tuesday the militants allowed two women inside the mosque, but rejected their appeals to free women and children, some of whom are sick, he asserted.

The militants have been frequently accused of using mosques as sanctuaries and the action on the Hazratbal shrine, where a holy relic of Prophet Mohammad is on display, is the second since 1991.

Muslim separatists are spearheading a campaign for Kashmir's separation from India. Some 7,000 people have died since the drive turned violent in 1989.

Home Minister Comments

BK2010092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the stalemate over the surrender of militants occupying the dargah [shrine] Hazratbal is still continuing. No untoward incident has been reported since last night, but the security forces are maintaining a strict vigil around the area. The state government has reiterated its appeal to the militants to allow the women, children, and old people to come out of the shrine, but there has been no response from them so far. Some women who have gone to the shrine to plead with the militants for release of their children had to come back weeping as the militants did not even allow them to see the children.

Meanwhile, the state government has called upon the ulemas and prominent persons to prevail upon the militants to vacate the shrine.

Meanwhile, the day curfew has been lifted in Kishtwar of District Doda following improvement in the situation. The curfew was clamped in the town on the 17th of this month following the kidnapping and killing of persons by the militants. Night curfew in Bhadarwah town, however, continues to remain in force as a precautionary measure.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the center is making all efforts to protect the Hazratbal in Srinagar and to make the militants in the shrine surrender. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad today after reviewing the passing out parade by IPS [Indian Police Service] probationers in the Sardar Ballavbhai Patel Police Academy, Mr. Chavan said about 50 militants with sophisticated weapons are hiding inside the shrine and holding 100 to 125 civilians as hostage.

The deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Najma Heptulla, has condemned the occupation of the dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar by militants. Ms. Heptulla, who is on a visit to the United States, has said in Washington yesterday that the militants are showing their disrespect to the dargah, which is the most respected by the Muslim community. She said a mosque is not a place for guns; it is a place for peace and prayer.

ISI Seen Fueling 'Subversion' in Kashmir

BK1610135093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] Pakistan, of late, has made the Muslim-dominated border districts of Poonch and Rajouri its prime targets to fuel militancy in the relatively peaceful Jammu region

For the past one year, Pakistan intelligence outfit, Inter Services Intelligence [ISI] has been concentrating it's efforts to fuel militancy subversion and trigger large-scale migration to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). However, the efforts put in by the ISI did not bear expected results due to opposition of the local population .

After failing in its efforts, the ISI has now given the charge of planning subversion in these two districts to a brigadier-rank official each, according to the defence sources

Maj-Gen Surjit Singh. general officer commanding of Army division told a group of visiting newsmen that Pakistan realised the importance of Poonch and Rajouri districts very late in it's planned insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K].

He said the plan to fuel militancy in these two sensitive border districts was also part of the "Operation Topac" prepared by Pakistan. But now. the ISI is trying to transplant the Afghanistan model of insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir.

It's importance was felt when the infiltration and exfiltration routes from Kashmir Valley were plugged by the Army last year.

Moreover, the Maj Gen said that these two Muslim dominated districts were proving to be irritant in Pakistan's international propaganda about the popular upsurge of Muslims in the Indian State". After tightening of vigil in Kashmir, Pakistan has started using these two districts to smuggle in arms and ammunition into the Valley .

After crossing the vast line of control (LoC), the militants reach Kashmir Valley by crossing the Pirpanjal range of mountains through various passes, Nil Kanth Gali, Chorpanjal Gali and Jaman wali Gali, which open up in Tan Marg and Tosha Maiden areas of Kashmir," he said. With tight vigil, on these high mountain passes, Pakistani designs has been frustrated.

Since July 1992, 27 militants, including foreign nationals were killed and 70 including the first Afghan militant was caught in the area. A large cache of arms and ammunition with 84 AK-type rifles, 804 Italian mines and other explosives were seized.

Maj Gen Surjit Singh said that besides supplying arms to Kashmiri militants Pakistan has also been trying to link Doda district, which has been engulfed in militancy, with Poonch and Rajouri through Gool-Gulabgarh area of Udhampur district. A tight vigil is being maintained in the area by BSF [Border Security Force] and J&K police, he said.

Complimenting the people of Poonch and Rajouri for thwarting the Pakistan's designs, he said some people have been indulging in subversive activities but only for monetary gains. The ISI has been giving Rs [rupees] 1000 for each blast," he said.

Since February 1992, 66 blasts rocked these two districts but interestingly no major loss of life or property was reported showing that the locals involved in these acts never wanted to harm their own people. he added.

Frustrated by it's failure to get local support, the ISI did try to inject foreign nationals and criminals to create large scale disturbances in these districts.

On January 5.1993 a group of militants infiltrated into Indian territory and fired rockets at an Army ammunition depot in Mendhar sector and fled.

Rao Message to Bhutto Detailed; Parties React

BK1910161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Ms. Benazir Bhutto was today sworn in as the new prime minister of Pakistan. The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, administered the oath of office to Ms. Bhutto at a glittering ceremony in Islamabad this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has felicitated Ms. Bhutto. In his message, Mr. Narasimha Rao said New Delhi looks forward to working with Islamabad for the promotion of peace and stability in South Asia and in building up harmonious relations among the nations of the region. Wishing Ms. Bhutto a success in her important responsibility, Mr. Narasimha Rao also said New Delhi is keen for a comprehensive dialogue with Islamabad to discuss all matters of mutual concern, including issues related to Jammu and Kashmir.

Our Islamabad correspondent reports that Mr. Narasimha Rao's message was the first from a foreign dignitary to Ms. Bhutto after she assumed the office of the prime minister of Pakistan today. It was conveyed to her by Mr. S.K. Lamba, India's high commissioner to Pakistan.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has expressed the hope that Ms. Benazir Bhutto will take concrete steps to improve bilateral relations with India and positively respond to solve the Kashmir problem as per the Simla Agreement. The Janata Dal has also congratulated Ms. Bhutto on her assumption of the office of the prime minister of Pakistan.

Official Comments on Bhutto Election

BK2010073093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Commenting on Ms. Benazir Bhutto's election as prime minister, the director of the Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis, Mr. Jasjit Singh, felt that both Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif could cooperate with each other for stability in Pakistan.

[Begin Jasjit Singh recording] I think that both have been prime ministers and both have learned the limits of power and both have understood that hostile relationship [with India] may not be the best thing for them. They have used that hostile relationship for their own domestic political (?science). But, after all, what is the domestic political challenge for both of them is the hardline extreme elements. And the hardline extreme elements whether they are [word indistinct], the jamaat [religious organizations] or even the drug barons, whoever it may be, are the ones who stand to gain by continued hostility [and] confrontation with India. On the other hand, things have been taken to such an extent that is not easy for either of them to pull back. When one of them starts pulling back from this position, which I think, was fairly indicated in last week's statements of both these leaders in terms of relationship with India, I think that needs to be tested and allowed to grow. But, if at the first opportunity, the opposition starts to use any improvement in relations or willingness to improve over a dialogue once again for internal political mileage, then of course, there [words indistinct] opportunity here. [end recording]

Commentary Views 'Provocations' by Pakistan

BK2010043593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Commentary by Professor Kalim Bahadur of Jawaharlal Nehru University]

[Text] Pakistan has expelled four Indian diplomats, including the consul and head of the chancery in Karachi. The move is apparently in retaliation for the expulsion of four diplomats of the Pakistani mission in Delhi and Bombay who had been accused of indulging in impermissible activities. This sparks a new low in Indo-Pak relations. The latest provocation by Pakistan has come at a time when the newly elected government headed by Benazir Bhutto has taken office in Islamabad. Also it coincides with an escalation in that country's interference in India's internal affairs by its blatant involvement in the militants intrusion into the holy shrine of Hazratbal in Srinagar. It appears that it is a well planned move by the hawks in the Pakistani establishment to scuttle any gesture by the new government toward relaxation of tension in Indo-Pak relations. Maybe they want to give the brazen interference in India's internal affairs the sanction of a democratically elected government.

There is another dimension to the expulsion of four Indian diplomats—all the four were posted at Karachi. It is this Indian mission in the southern city of Pakistan which caters to thousands of migrants who are settled in the city and other parts of Sindh and have relations in India. The staff in Indian mission in Karachi is already reduced, restricting the facilities it could extend to intending travelers to India. Even the Pakistani citizens have resented their government's policy of creating difficulties in maintaning contacts with their relations on this side of the border. This was reflected to many of the letters to editors published in Karachi newspapers.

Over the years, whatever the political problems between the two countries, the rulers of Pakistan have tried to impede and create all kinds of obstructions in people-to-people contacts. There have been attempts to insulate the people of Pakistan from any cultural and social influence from India. One can only hope that under the new dispensation in Islamabad, some fresh assessment will be made of this totally negative attitude toward India, whereas the political leaders can wrestle with finding solutions to political problems. People of the two countries should be allowed to interact and understand each other for they have so much in common. Active cultural and social relations between the two countries will act as confidence-building measures and help defuse tensions.

Over 50,000 Imprisoned Under Terrorism Act

BK2010084193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Oct 93 p 6

[By Ranjit Bhushan]

[Text] New Delhi—More than 50,OOO persons are languishing under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) all over the country while the conviction rate of those detained in the specially designated TADA courts is a fraction of one per cent—to be precise 0.81—since the Act's inception in 1985.

According to Home Ministry statistics, the exact number of those detained is 52,268. Of the states, Punjab tops with 14,457 detainees followed surprisingly by Gujarat with over 14,094 and Assam which has 10,779 in its various jails.

Some of the other states with detainees include Andhra Pradesh which has more than 5,600 of them. Surprisingly, states like Jammu and Kashmir which have the largest numbers of proclaimed terrorists and groups have only 1,826 detainees. In smaller states like Manipur, the numbers are high—about a thousand or so. Uttar Pradesh, where Sikh militants have occasionally gone on the rampage and have strong roots in the Terai area, has over 800 detainees while Haryana has 916.

Lawyers fighting the cases in the Supreme Court say that TADA is increasingly becoming a weapon for the police who are unable to keep the accused in jail on other charges of common crime. For instance in Punjab, there is no case of common crime. Everyone, including those held under landlord-tenants disputes, are detained under TADA. Not surprisingly, not a single known terrorist is being heard in any of these TADA courts. If booked under TADA, it could take a minimum of a year before the challan [charge sheet] is filed and a specially designated court hears the petitioner.

According to one official, more than 30,000 of these cases—and these could well be conservative estimates—have been going on for more than five years. The courts are notoriously slow because in a wide majority of these cases, there is just no hard evidence.

In one of the worst cases, the Supreme Court is currently listening to a petition filed by Mohminder Singh and Lavleen Singh from Ajmer whose case is going on for the last nine years. It was filed in 1984. The two did not even get a preliminary hearing for the first few years. Lavleen is in any case on parole.

In another case in Assam, a 12-year-old boy Paresh Kalita has been charged with "inciting trouble " against the state under the Udalpuri police station.

Says K.S.Sodhi, a senior lawyer fighting TADA cases in the Supreme Court, "The main problem lies with the investigating agencies. Because most of the cases are being booked under section five of TADA which deals with the underlings, the people who are held for carrying arms or who just happened to be hanging around the place of crime. The police is not booking people under section 3 which deals with terrorist activities or section 4 which deals with disruptive actions against the state."

In a wide majority of these cases, there is wide misuse of TADA regulations. In Gujarat for instance, where there are no known cases of anti-national activities unlike Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir, the number of detainees is very high. The reason is that even petty criminals—and those opposed to the state government—are being booked under TADA. In Andhra Pradesh, not a single Naxalite leader of any standing has been held under TADA. Instead, all petty offenders have been booked, with little or no hope for a hearing.

What is worse TADA cases are increasing every year. According to PUCL [expansion unknown] president Rajinder Sachar, more and more people are being booked, even as conviction rates are slumping dangerously. For instance, there were 26,000 cases registered in 1990. In 1991, the number rose to 31,000 and today it more than 50,000. "There is not much to say after this," Sachar points out.

The biggest problem, admit officials, has been the paucity of specially designated TADA courts. In Uttar Pradesh for instance, until 1992, there was just one special court at Bareilly. Rajasthan has two courts, Madhya Pradesh has two, Gujarat has five while three courts at Delhi's Patiala Court, Shahadra and Tis Hazari are barely functional.

Interestingly, of all the cases under detention, there are barely 500 appeals that have been filed in the Supreme Court and several high courts protesting the decision to impose TADA.

Iran

Habibi Views Cooperation With Sudanese Envoy

LD1910174693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Qutbi al-Mahdi, the ambassador of Sudan in Iran, met Hasan Habibi, our country's first vice president, this afternoon and expressed his thanks for the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand and consolidate relations between Iran and Sudan. He said: Today Iran and Sudan seek unity and cohesiveness within the Islamic ummah and the spread of the lofty teachings of Islam. We are at present witnessing a notable progress in relations between our countries.

Then Mr. Habibi referred to the importance that the presence of a strong and independent Sudan in Africa carries for the world of Islam. He also stressed the respect in which the people of Africa hold Sudan, and added: Good cooperation between Iran and Sudan can act as a suitable model for securing and safeguarding the interests of the Islamic community, and for the advancement of many Islamic and humanitarian values in the African continent.

Mr. Habibi went on to stress that problems and obstacles which the Muslims face in various countries should be resolved by Islamic countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Tashkent Visit Viewed

NC1910084893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Last night, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will also visit other Central Asian countries on his first trip to Central Asia.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union to be officially recognized as an independent country in 1991 after the socialist Soviet Union disintegrated.

Relations between Tehran and Tashkent are at the ambassadorial level. Uzbekistan has no common border with Iran and is a landlocked country without port facilities or access to international water.

Last year, in Aban [23 October-21 November], Iran and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on air transport cooperation, and they are studying expanding land routes between them. The Islamic Republic of Iran's ports in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf are the best and closest links between Uzbekistan and international water. Undoubtedly, using Iran's land and sea transport facilities to transport goods and broaden bilateral relations is very important.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a member of the CIS Treaty signed by the republics of the former Soviet Union after Communism collapsed. Nine republics are CIS members. Uzbekistan has also been accepted as a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], following lobbying by Iran, which is a founder member. The ECO with its 10 members represents a new opportunity for economic development and expanding political and commercial relations.

Undoubtedly, by remembering the cordial reciprocal relations, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit in his second presidential term can be considered a turning point in Tehran-Tashkent relations. The two countries are expected to benefit from the agreements that will be signed.

Better Ties With Central Asia Urged

LD1810164393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On his visit to a number of Central Asian republics, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in the Uzbek Republic, Tashkent, today at the head of a senior delegation and was welcomed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

In this two-day trip, which is taking place following an official invitation by the Uzbek president and which aims at strengthening relations, our country's president will hold discussions with Uzbek officials, sign various agreements, and visit the country's historic and cultural sites, which are signs of its Islamic culture.

The Muslim countries of Central Asia that will be visited by our country's president over the next few days have achieved their full independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union and entered the international scene as new members of the world community.

Despite some differences between them and despite their various economic, social, and political characteristics, these countries share many common characteristics. The most important is the existence of a powerful Islamic culture among the people of the region. This culture, despite the 73-year domination of the atheistic communist order and despite great suppression, continues to be steadfast and strong and is now fast-growing and expanding.

Due to these characteristics and despite the enemy's extreme propaganda to frighten the Central Asian people and governments of Islam and despite their repeated warnings concerning the growth of Islamism, within the past two years relations have grown between the Muslim republics and our countries.

The strategic position of the Islamic republic in the region and the position of our country as the only point of contact between the Central Asian countries and the outside world is a fact that has attracted the great attention of international circles. It is this very characteristic that gives Iran a significant position in relation to the Muslim republics of Central Asia.

Until now the majority of the Central Asian leaders have visited Tehran and many political-economic-cultural agreements have been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and each of the Central Asian countries.

Now it is hoped that the visit by the Islamic Republic of Iran's president to the Central Asian countries will lead to the strengthening of relations with the Muslim peoples and governments of the region and will increasingly improve in various ways the relations between our country and these Muslim countries, although these relations, either bilateral or within the Economic Cooperation Organization, are already at a good level.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Central Asia

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For reportage on the visit by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Central Asia, please see the Central Asia section of the 19 October Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Nateq-Nuri Urges India To Resolve Shrine Issue

LD1910200693 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here today condemned the siege by Indian security forces of Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine 'Hazratbal', and termed it an insult to the religious sanctities of Muslims in India.

He said that in view of the good ties between Tehran and New Delhi the Indian Government should resolve the issue in a prudent way so as to prevent a mass massacre of Muslims.

Located on the banks of Lake Nagin in Srinagar, Hazratbal, which is believed to house a hair of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), is under siege of Indian forces since Saturday,

According to reports a number of Kashmiri Muslim combatants, as well as several women and children, have sought refuge in the shrine.

Hoj. Nateq-Nuri, who was addressing today's open session of the Majles, said Iran cannot remain indifferent towards issues relating to Kashmir and Muslims and that confrontation with Kashmiri Muslims was bound to affect Tehran-New Delhi ties.

Attack on Hazratbal Shrine Seen as 'Plan'

NC1710180693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary from the "In the Margins of the News" feature]

[Text] The situation in Kashmir is extremely critical. Tension and clashes intensified when—in their search for Muslim combatants who are fighting against India's rule in Kashmir—Indian forces entered the holiest of Muslim shrines in Srinagar. This shrine is famous as the Hazratbal shrine where, it is said, a lock of hair of the Great Prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, is being kept.

In the clashes that took place, Indian forces attacked this holy shrine with grenades and light weapons. According to the latest reports, the Hazratbal shrine is still under siege by Indian forces.

Of course, such attacks by the Indian forces are not unprecedented. In 1984, the Indian army in Punjab province attacked the holiest shrine of the Sikhs, and in 1992 we witnessed the destruction of Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists—an act which was accompanied by the Indian army's silence.

The oppressed people of Kashmir have been fighting for their independence for years and throughout these struggles, they have witnessed the most horrific of crimes and have lost lives and property in the process. And now their holiest shrine has been attacked by Indian forces.

It seems that the Hazratbal shrine incident is not mere destruction or just an attack on a shrine. All known facts show that this is the starting point of a criminal plan under which 3,000 mosques in India are to be gradually destroyed if conditions are favorable.

Even though what is happening in Kashmir today has its own significance, nevertheless its true meaning will become clear only when viewed within the framework of the extensive aggression by the enemies of Islam in a bid to put pressure on the Muslims. If until yesterday the Muslim nations in occupied Palestine, Afghanistan, and Lebanon were the targets of direct aggression by arrogance, today the Muslim nations are the target of serious aggression by regimes that are working to crush Islamic movements.

The Indian Government, and especially the extremist Hindu groups, have always worried that Muslims would gain a majority in one of the provinces of that country and they consider this a threat to their existence. Presently there is a Muslim majority only in Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Government has tried to settle Hindus in the various parts of that province in a bid to upset the demographic balance there. And now these Hindus are resorting to destructive acts by military forces.

At any rate, if such incidents are not prevented, clashes may spread to other areas in India, in which case the situation in India will be destabilized. On the international level too, such acts may spark off reactions that could harm India's popularity as a multicultural country and the world's largest democracy.

Tasks Facing Pakistani Prime Minister Viewed

LD1910140593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Miss Benazir Bhutto has been elected prime minister of Pakistan for the second time in the past five years. [passage omitted]

What future policy will Benazir Bhutto's government pursue? Whatever the policy, it is possible that Benazir Bhutto will concentrate all her efforts on solving domestic and external difficulties and problems. But as to how far her efforts will succeed, we must wait and see.

Pakistan's new government has inherited a course of political crisis, which has affected its economic and social progress. Benazir Bhutto is facing considerable problems, such as the energy crisis, market stagnation, foreign debts, trade deficit, reduced foreign currency reserves, and the results of the country's recent political crisis. In addition to adopting certain domestic policies, Miss Bhutto might strive to win the support of the IMF and the World Bank. In other words, she might continue the policy pursued by the interim government. If that were to happen, the hefty defense budget, from which the Pakistani Government cannot escape due to the security problems in the region, would pose a problem for the new prime minister.

In addition there are other problems, such as drug trafficking, clashes, and religious and ethnic disputes.

On the foreign policy issue, the difficulty of expanding ties with the United States of America and the problem of Kashmir are among the obstacles the new government should approach with care.

In any event, thanks to the support of the majority at the national parliament and to some extent the provincial assemblies, Benazir Bhutto's government has entered the arena. It is expected that by observing caution the new government will move toward promoting an independent and powerful Pakistan in the region.

Afghan Refugees Must Obtain Identity Cards

LD1810144693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] In accordance with the plan to prepare for the voluntary repatriation of the Afghan refugees, it was announced: All the Afghan refugees in Iran must apply to obtain identity cards from the Interior Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] during the remaining five months of the current year.

Ahmad Hoseyni, director general for foreign nationals and refugees at the Interior Ministry, announced the above in an interview with correspondents today. He said: On the basis of a recent resolution of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Geneva, the IRI will issue identity cards for the Afghan refugees during the remaining months of the current year to prepare them for voluntary repatriation. All Afghans living in Iran are obliged to contact the relevant authorities to obtain their cards.

On the trend of voluntary repatriation of the Afghan refugees, he referred to the undertaking of the Afghan Government and the UNHCR in this connection and said: Last year 850,000 Afghans returned home, and thanks to the changes envisaged, next year [from 21 March 1994] 1 million more Afghan refugees will return home voluntarily; and all the refugees will return to their country by the end of the year 1374 [20 March 1996].

About the instances of mixed marriages in our country, Mr. Hoseyni said: Any marriage contract between Iranian women and Afghan men, which is not registered in the state documentation offices, is illegal. Iranian women who have married Afghan men before this date can apply to obtain passports and visas to leave Iran with their Afghan husbands. In this connection, the government of Afghanistan has promised to respect the rights of Iranian women.

Significance of Iranian-Turkish Ties Viewed

NC1810080593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Turkish interior minister, who is in Tehran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart to discuss broadening Iranian-Turkish cooperation, met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday. During the meeting, he conveyed a written message from President Suleyman Demirel.

Stressing the need to boost bilateral relations and welcoming deeper bilateral cooperation, our president criticized some Turkish circles and media for their irresponsible remarks.

Since the inception of the Islamic Republic of Iran, bilateral political and economic relations have broadened greatly. While these relations were not always on the same level, they have generally followed a positive and constructive course.

At their height, bilateral economic relations saw the volume of economic exchanges reach the unprecedented figure of $2 billion, and various agreements were signed in the cultural, transport, and transit fields as well as on border markets and security issues to prevent undesirable elements infiltrating the respective countries. These are the most salient areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Greater cooperation with neighbors is among the principles of Iran's foreign policy, presupposing that Tehran-Ankara relations can expand further based on reciprocal relations, nonintervention in one another's internal affairs, and good neighborliness.

But some Turkish circles and media seek to tarnish bilateral relations and, by creating artificial misunderstandings, they strive to jeopardize broader joint cooperation. Turkish echelons acquainted with the realities should openly deny such allegations and warn the people of enemy plots against closer bilateral relations.

Iranian officials believe that broadening Tehran-Ankara ties will contribute to regional and international peace and stability. Islamic Iran will never permit any attempts to generate discord and agitation along their 500 km of common boundary.

Circumstances in the Middle East and developments in Central Asia demand that Turkey and Iran maintain cordial relations. Hopefully, talks between Turkish and Iranian officials will help to broaden relations and eliminate ambiguities so that Tehran-Ankara ties will expand to benefit the two countries more than ever.

10,000 Iraqi Refugees Expected To Arrive

LD1810180093 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Of the 40,000 Iraqi people holed up in southern Iraqi marshlands, 10,000 may cross into Iran, an Interior Ministry official said here Monday.

Ahmad Husseyni, the ministry director-general in charge of Foreign Nationals Department, also said that 5,000 Iraqi refugees have already fled to Iran.

Some 2,000 Iraqi refugees living under hard conditions in Saudi Arabia have arrived in Iran on their own accord and 360 others are expected to arrive at Shiraz airport in the next few days, he said.

Commenting on Azeri refugees, Husseyni said some 20,000 Azeri people fleeing Armenian offensives, have been accommodated in four camps set up by Iran inside the territory of Azerbaijan Republic a few kilometers away from northern Iranian borders.

The Islamic Republic has prepared to host 100,000 Azeri refugees in the refugee camps, Husseyni said.

So far, he said, only 5,000 parcels of medical and food supplies have been dispatched by the International Committee of the Red Cross for Azeri refugees.

He said the northwestern border crossing of Bazargan is open to all humanitarian aid that may be dispatched by the United Nations and other countries for Azeri refugees.

According to Husseyni, some 850,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran for their home country voluntarily over the past year and that the figure is expected to reach one million next year if the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees helps Iran to handle their voluntary return.

All Afghan refugees are expected to return home by mid 1995 according to a timetable agreed to by Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations, he said.

The return of Afghan refugees have so far cost 21.5 million dollars and another 28 million dollars has been set aside by the United Nations for the year 1994 for the return home of Afghans and refugees of other nationalities, he said.

Husseyni said that such a little amount of money allocated to this goal indicated the lack of attention being paid by countries and international organizations to the issue of refugees living in Iran.

U.S., UK Reaction to Ties With Germany Viewed

LD1710154093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Relations and links between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany have brought negative reactions from America and Britain during the past few days.

Those relations are within the framework of the two countries' normal links and are based on mutual respect. However, they have caused an inappropriate protest by America, with Britain following it. The Governments of America and Britain ostensibly have tried to justify their protests by resorting to old (?baseless) accusations regarding Iran's support of terrorism and efforts to gain access to weapons of mass destruction.

America and Britain have reacted negatively to contacts between Iranian and other European countries' officials in the past. The reason for this kind of reaction is based on fear that the apparent unity of the seven industrial countries in confronting Iran and the Islamic revolution will collapse.

During the session that the Group of Seven held last summer in Tokyo, a great number of efforts were spearheaded by America to adopt a policy to isolate Iran and impose a ban on financial credit and the export of technology to Iran. But countries such as Germany and Japan opposed that policy, and that was one way in which those countries stressed Iran's strategic, economic, and political importance in the Middle East.

Now that Tehran-Bonn and Tehran-Tokyo political ties have increased and friendly and cordial relations with other countries have continued, America and Britain are becoming isolated in their policy of confronting Iran. Within that framework, Washington and London's protests to Germany are in fact a protest against the isolation of their own policies.

It is clear that Islamic Iran, with its particular political and economic characteristics, has great significance among all industrial and nonindustrial countries. That is why all countries openly and secretly try to establish friendly and close ties with our country.

It is obvious that America's accusation against Iran is only a pretext to disrupt Iran's foreign relations and stop expansion of ties between that country's European trade partners and Tehran, so much so that despite all such accusations the American Government, during Bush and Clinton's presidencies, has repeatedly expressed its willingness to hold negotiations and establish ties with Iran.

Therefore, it seems that America's only concern is to have contact with Iran, and accusations of support for terrorism and efforts to have access to weapons of mass destruction are aimed at achieving that goal.

Clinton's administration has come to the conclusion that without Iran, America's policies in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East are futile. Therefore, it has concentrated all of its efforts, either to establish relations with Iran, or to isolate it by exerting various kinds of pressure. So far, these actions have not had the slightest effect.

UN Security Council 'Double Standards' Decried

NC1610123793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations criticized the Security Council's policy of double standards in its approach on regional and world problems and called on the permanent members to respect the principles and stances of the UN Charter and to avoid nondemocratic and secretive methods in dealing with problems.

Speaking during yesterday's general discussion at the UN General Assembly, which was held to study the secretary general's report on the activities of the United Nations during the past year, Kharrazi emphasized the UN Charter in which UN members delineate the activities of the Security Council and that states that the Security Council should answer to the General Assembly. He said: The Security Council, especially its permanent members, should be asked if they have decisively and clearly defended justice and the UN Charter in their approach to aggressors. Kharrazi added: Unfortunately, the Security Council has not successfully carried out its duty in defending world peace and security and in confronting aggression, for example the Serbs' aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Kharrazi expressed the Islamic Republic's support for a proposal by the secretary general to end the Security Council's consultative sessions in camera and debate problems at open sessions to gain the support of other UN members. The permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations referred to the secretary general's report entitled Peace Directive, which was handed to the UN General Assembly last year. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of countries should be respected in all UN decisions and resolutions. Kharrazi went on to thank the UN secretary general and his assistants for their efforts in compiling a directive on development, which is to be presented to the 48th UN General Assembly.

Paper Says West 'Magnifying' Economic Problems

NC1710195493 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Oct 93 p 2

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyan: "Iran, Palestine, and the West's Concerns"]

[Text] With the approach of the announcement of the country's Second [Five-Year] Plan and the continuation of Iran's explicit opposition to the Gaza-Jericho compromise deal, the West's mass media are trying to magnify Iran's economic problems and to question whether Iran will be able to continue its opposition to the compromise.

Meanwhile, the recent visit by an Iranian economic delegation to Washington for talks with the IMF and the World Bank has fanned the flames of the West's propaganda. But when the esteemed leader clearly stated in his recent meeting with the leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine that "the Palestinian problem has not yet ended, and history will prove that such pacts have not been to the benefit of their authors," once again Iran displayed its decisiveness to the world. Such stances, coupled with all the government's economic efforts and the emphasis that it places on getting rid of deprivation, on achieving social justice, and increasing production, show a unified movement. However, we should also weigh our actions in the field of international economy.

Undoubtedly the visit by the esteemed president today to the most deprived area in Khorasan province, and his meeting with the sincere and kind people in Torbat-e Jam, Tayyebad, Khaf, and other cities means that despite what the West's mass media claims, the government is determined to place ending deprivation at the top of the list of all its economic activities. And with this extremely serious and persistent movement, public opinion will be granted an opportunity to exercise sound judgment of the government's activities.

The truth is that our system's economic movements are not very detached and different from its political stances. But the West's mass media tries to exploit each and every economic attempt by Iran in order to spark off propaganda-psychological maneuvers against our system.

Nevertheless, the major motivation behind the West's mass media's resorting to such propaganda may be to imply that because of the economic bottlenecks that Iran is facing, it will not be very successful in the political field, an example of which is probably seen in the Gaza-Jericho deal! But the reason why the West's circles feel the way they do toward Iran's political stances—hence their efforts to distort the face of our system by propounding economic issues—is because our "stances are principled" and because we constitute "the popular base of the revolution" on the regional and international levels.

The Iran of today is the only country which, with its clear and principled stances, is gaining more and more popularity and is warning nations against wasting their rights. And it is probably the fear of this popular base that led to the recent propaganda by the Zionist regime's foreign minister, who advised Iranian officials that their stances are contrary to the interest of nations (!) without heeding the fact that the stances of the Zionist regime and of the propaganda circles affiliated to it against us are the elements that help to show nations the justness of our stances and that this type of propaganda will only add to the nations' hatred of the Zionist regime.

The Western world is well aware that the continuation of the struggle in the occupied territories and especially in the Gaza Strip will pose many problems for the compromise deal and will ultimately lead to its defeat. As far as Dr. [Fathi] Shaqaqi's visit to Tehran is concerned, the fact that the intifadah may change its type of struggle and choose new tactics constitute part of the West's concerns. Probably 'Arafat's request to visit Tehran—which met Iran's explicit opposition—was a way for the West and the Zionist circles to assess the firmness of Iran's stances vis-a-vis the compromise deal and its future sensitivities.

At any rate, the new tone that the West's mass media regarding Iran's political stances and the indirect threats that are aimed at Iran in the various fields, especially in the economic field, show their uneasiness about the future struggles of the Palestinians in the Middle East and the possible defeat of the Gaza-Jericho compromise. The truth is that the West is not willing to see the second Camp David deal suffer the same fate as the first Camp David deal and for history to repeat itself.

AEO Activities 'Chiefly' for Peaceful Purposes

LD1410191493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0900 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Interview with Haji-Sa'id, deputy head for nuclear research and development in the Atomic Energy Organization, AEO, and other AEO officials; from the "In Line With People, in Step With Officials" phone-in program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Unidentified caller] With sincere greetings to the esteemed officials of the AEO. My question is that in view of the fact that atomic energy is very effective and useful in generating electricity in many parts of the world, what steps have been taken by our esteemed officials in that field? Also I would like to ask that in view of all the poisonous propaganda that is being waged by global arrogance against our country's use of atomic energy, what steps have been taken by our officials toward nullifying this propaganda? [passage omitted]

[Haji-Sa'id] According to the rules and regulations of the AEO council, about 10 percent of the country's electricity must be generated by nuclear power. We have several different projects in this field; for instance the project on completing Bushehr's nuclear power station. At present negotiations with the Russians about this project are continuing with success. At the same time a contract has been signed with the Chinese about the construction of two 600-megawatt power stations. Preliminary works on these two projects are being carried out at present, and we hope the actual construction will begin soon.

In connection with the second question about the poisonous propaganda that is being waged against us, and the response that the AEO has in mind for them, I must say that we believe all this propaganda has a political root. As AEO head Mr. Amrollahi would agree, the policy of powerful countries who possess this industry is in fact to impede the spread of this technology. The best way for them is to frighten the public, in particular public opinion in the Western countries, and encourage them to oppose the spread and development of this industry. We ourselves can witness their propaganda on television and other mass media, which are aiming to create this fear in the public that should this technology spread to the third world countries, then such and such will happen.

Unfortunately, it seems that attention is reserved for only one single aspect of nuclear energy. This is despite the fact that about 95 percent of the functions of this energy concern people's daily lives. The Iranian AEO's activities are chiefly ['omdatan] in these areas, that is to say peaceful purposes.

Furthermore, everything we do in the AEO is conducted openly. That is to say we are open for inspection, not only by the country's legislative and policy-making forums, but also by the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose officials regularly inspect our installations, and we have absolutely nothing to hide. Therefore we can say that we respond to this poisonous propaganda by displaying our work openly and allowing the IAEA's officials to inspect our activities. [passage omitted]

Habibi Urges Tourist Industry Development

LD1910134193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The first seminar on the promotion of domestic and world tourism convened today in Tehran. The opening address was given by First Vice President Habibi.

The seminar aims at studying macro policies concerning Iran's tourism industry; deciding on the main features of planning and investment in this sphere; and reviewing the cultural, social, and economic resources and limits of our country's tourism industry. Mr. Habibi pointed to the role played by Islamic culture and civilization in the development of the tourism industry. He said: This claim is backed by the Holy Koran's repeated assertion that it is necessary to recognize the world around us; other cultures and civilizations.

The first vice president also referred to the importance of the informative aspects of the tourism industry, and added: We have to endeavor to inform people everywhere, especially people in neighboring countries and those of our compatriots living abroad, about the tourist attractions of Islamic Iran.

*New Postal Service Appointment Announced

93LA0239J Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] In a decree by the general manager of the Post Organization, Mr. Jamshid Khosravi was appointed the director general of the postal service of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks on Government's Domestic Priorities

BK2010023493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said the priorities of her government include the eradication of unemployment, the provision of justice, bringing in police reforms, and the establishment of a new social order. Speaking at a joint meeting of the elected members of the Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Junejo group from the Punjab assembly in Lahore yesterday, she said her government would make efforts to improve the lot of the common man. Speaking on the occasion, the PML-Junejo group president, Hamid Nasir Chattha, said the present government will take steps to improve the police system and establish an impartial administration.

Bhutto Seeks To Improve Ties With West, Japan

BK1910143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said she will form a small cabinet to run the government. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Peshawar this afternoon, she said initially a 10-member cabinet is being formed. Two more cabinet members will take oath tomorrow. One minister will be from Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group and the other from Pakistan Qaumi Party.

The prime minister said Pakistan has traditionally good relations with brotherly Muslim countries, and it wants good relations with the United States. She also stressed the need for resolving the Kashmir issue:

[Begin Bhutto recording] I would like to see Pakistan improve its relations not only with the United States but with the West and Japan. Of course, we have traditionally good relations with the Muslim countries, which I would like to see further strengthened.

In the subcontinent itself, there is the question of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. This is a burning issue, and while seeking to lessen the tension between India and Pakistan, I would stress that attention be paid to a political solution to this outstanding problem.

The foreign scene is so vast that it is not apt for me to try and answer all the questions, but I would like to see Pakistan play its due role in the international arena. There is a new relationship with some of the Muslim countries which have democracies and parliaments that we would also like to carve out for strengthening and renewing our traditional ties with oil-rich Gulf countries. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Immediately before taking oath as the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto called on the president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, and remained with him for some time. Also present on the occasion was Mr. Moin Qureshi, outgoing caretaker prime minister. The president congratulated Ms. Benazir Bhutto on her election and wished her all success as the country's elected prime minister. Talking to Mr. Moin Qureshi, the president greatly appreciated the way he and his cabinet members performed their duties.

CIA Report on Nation's Nuclear Program Disputed

BK1710083193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Oct 93 p 12

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad Government Oct 16—A Pakistan spokesman has denied the report of the American CIA that since 1980 to-date Pakistan has spent billions of dollars on its nuclear programme.

The report says this money had secretly been drawn from the international loans given for other projects. The spokesman, according to the BBC, said although he was not fully aware of the report's contents it was very easy to accuse without any solid proof.

Martin Limb reports: "The CIA made the allegations that the money for the nuclear programme was taken from the loans from America, European Community, International Monetary Fund and Arab countries. But there is no evidence to confirm this report.

American suspended military aid to Pakistan in October 1990 but since then it has given more than 400 million dollars aid to Pakistan. This aid was a reward for its help to Afghan Mojahedin in Afghanistan. During this period America had also supplied F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. CIA says that these aircraft can be used to drop nuclear bombs.

Analysts say that Pakistan has the capability to produce about ten bombs and CIA says that Pakistan keeps its elements separately but it can easily combine them if needed. CIA says that India also has such type of capability.

Indian Allegations on Embassy Expulsions Rejected

BK1910154693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has rejected Indian allegations that four members of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi and the Consulate General in Bombay expelled by India were engaged in espionage activities and are involved with the Hazratbal Shrine incident. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that these Pakistani diplomats were expelled from India after four Indian personnel were expelled from Pakistan yesterday. The four members of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi—Consul (?Ravi) M. Kwatra and consulate personnel Murari Lal, Narendar Singh, and Madan Dayal—were engaged in activities incompatible with their status as members of a consulate.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that the Pakistani diplomats expelled by India are career diplomats and were not engaged in espionage in any manner whatsoever. Moreover, linking the expulsion of the Pakistani diplomats from India to the Hazratbal Shrine incident is a regrettable attempt by the Indian Government to mislead the world community about the massive human rights violations committed by the Indian security forces in occupied Kashmir.

Indian Troops Fire Along Kashmir Border; 2 Killed

BK1910140993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 18 Oct 93 pp 2,3

[Text] Bagh, (KASHMIR PRESS INTERNATIONAL)—Mohammad Shafiq, a personnel of the Azad

Kashmir Police, was martyred due to shooting by the Indian forces. People in the revenue district of (Haveli) have been confined to their homes due to the unprovoked firing by the Indian forces. According to details, (Humayun), (Kamar Kote), (Sirhiyan), and (Kakuta) near the Line of Control are constantly being fired upon by the Indian forces. Mohammad Shafiq, an employee of the Azad Kashmir Police, was killed, and a number of civilians were wounded due to latest firing by Indian forces. Normal life in the area has been badly affected due to repeated firing by the Indian troops. Scared by the Indian troops' shooting, people residing near the Line of Control do not dare go out to harvest their crops or to cut grass to feed their cattle. The Indian troops start shooting whenever people try to go to their farms. Sakhi Bibi, wife of Wali Mohammad of (Nagar Kote) village, who was sleeping in her home, was killed as a result of the unprovoked gunfire from the Indian forces along the Line of Control. The Indian forces continued shooting throughout the night.

Nawaz Autopsy Reveals 'High' Levels of Arsenic

BK1910101593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Oct 93 p 1,4

["From Amir Mir"]

[Text] Lahore—The toxicology and histological examination reports received by the caretaker government from the three foreign experts who conducted autopsy of the late COAS Gen. Asif Nawaz's body on October 1, have confirmed very high concentration of arsenic in various parts of the late Army Chief's body.

The three chemical examination reports sent by Dr. Sare H. Waish of the United States. Dr. John Clark from England and Dr. Petrek Lambart from France have been received by the Interior Ministry. The toxicology reports said that check for toxins with delayed cardiac effect showed that samples taken from various parts of the late Asif's body contained very high concentration of arsenic and chromium. The three experts have however found different percentage of arsenic in the body owing to the fact that samples from diffent parts of the body were examined.

According to Dr. Sarel's report which was received from the United States on October 14, the late General's body contained 70 percent of arsenic whereas the normal concentration of the same in an unexposed healthy individual is less than 0.3 percent. The other two reports from Dr. John and Dr. Petrek were received by the caretakers on October 15, according to which the body contained 65 and 62 percent of arsenic respectively. According to the foreign experts, more percentage of arsenic quantity has been found in such parts of the body where the blood circulation used to be more fluent.

According to the sources, after the receipt of the chemical examination reports, a fresh and final statement of Begun Nuzhat Asif Nawaz would be recorded by the special investigation team of Rawalpindi police headed by [name indistinct] and those nominiated by her would be arrested. During private meetings with her relatives, Begun Nuwaz has suspected the involvement of known politicians in the alleged murder of her husband.

Earlier, the Army high-command had decided to go for the autosy of late Asif Nawaz's body by foreign experts after a formal application was forwarded to this effect by Begum Nuzhat Asif in the first week of September. Begum Sahhiba is of the firm opinion that the death of her husband was not a natural one but a political assassination. She had also sent the hair sample of her late husband to a U.S. laboratory for analysis. The chemical examination report of the 3.5 mg hair sample said that the hair did contain fatal quantity of arsenic.

According to the local experts, throughout the Middle Ages, arsenic was widely employed as homicidal and suicidal agent. Deaths which resulted from such poisonings were usually blamed on natural causes. According to the experts, this was largely due to the inability at that time to detect the presence of arsenic in the corpse and the failure to associate and correlate the symptoms of arsenic poisioning with its ingestion.